

Saud holds consultations in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal met Tunisian leaders and Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Kibi Sunday, the Tunisian news agency TAP said. Prince Saud told journalists his visit reflected Saudi concern about ensuring the success of the next Arab summit, due to be held next month in the Saudi capital, Riyadh. "The Arab League carries the heavy responsibility of joint Arab action," he said. Prince Saud delivered a message from King Fahd to Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba on coordinating the two countries' positions on common goals, the agency said. The prince also met Prime Minister Mohammad Mzali. Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi and special presidential adviser Habib Bourguiba Junior, the president's son, also attended the talks.



Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز: مؤسسة صحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Iraq reports air raids on Iranians

BAHRAIN (R) — Iraq said Sunday its jets had carried out intensive raids on Iranian positions and troops buildups in the northern and central sectors of the Gulf war front and also deep inside Iran. Iran, meanwhile, reported artillery exchanges along the war front and claimed 22 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in a bombardment of trenches and firing positions. In Baghdad, a military communique said Iraqi jets inflicted heavy losses in men and equipment during air raids, after which all aircraft returned safely to base. It added that nine Iranian troops had been killed and others wounded in various sectors of the front during the previous 24 hours.

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Egyptian message expected in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A special envoy of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is expected here soon with a message to His Majesty King Hussein dealing with the outcome of the Egyptian president's talks with American leaders during his recent visit to Washington, according to a report by the Sawt Al Shaab newspaper Sunday. It said the Egyptian president's message deals mainly with his discussions with the Americans on the Middle East.

Shawwa leaves for Cairo

AMMAN (J.T.) — Rashad Al Shawwa, who was dismissed by the Israeli occupation authorities as mayor of Gaza, left Amman Sunday for Cairo on his way to London, sources close to the Palestinian leader said. Mr. Shawwa, who arrived here Tuesday, met His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and senior officials, the sources added.

W. Bank mayors banned from press conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Israeli occupation authorities have banned three dismissed Arab mayors from attending a press conference Sunday by an American lawyer, according to a report by the Palestinian news agency Wafa. As quoted by the local press, it said that Bassam Al Shaka of Nablus, Karim Khalaf of Ramallah and Walid Al Hammad of Anabta, who are under house arrest were banned by the West Bank military governor from attending the conference in which the American lawyer was expected to discuss the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories and to denounce Israel's policies in the West Bank as violation of international law, the report said. It added that a number of Palestinian leaders whose lands were confiscated by the Israeli authorities were scheduled to attend the conference along with a number of Israeli personalities.

70,000 Kurds join Iraqi soldiers

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said Sunday 70,000 Iraqi Kurds had volunteered over the last three months to join his forces in fighting Iran, the Iraqi News Agency reported. It said President Hussein made the remark to a group of people from Sulaimaniya, one of three Iraqi Kurdistan autonomous regions, who donated gold and cash for the war effort.

Assad receives Saudi message

DAMASCUS (R) — A message from Saudi Arabia's King Fahd to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Lebanon and Arab affairs was delivered Sunday, a presidential palace spokesman said. The message was delivered to Mr. Assad by Saudi Information Minister Ali Shaier, but no details were released.

PSP leader outlines demands for reconciliation

Lebanese opposition does not seek to topple Gemayel, says Junblatt

By Affah A. Kaloti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), Walid Junblatt, said Sunday that the Lebanese opposition does not want to overthrow President Amin Gemayel but wants amendments in his current policy by revising the existing "one-party system" as well as the foreign policy "which is aligned with the United States."

Mr. Junblatt added that the mainly Druze PSP does not want to partition Lebanon, but "if the Israeli-Lebanese troop withdrawal agreement of last May is not abrogated it would actually lead to the division of Lebanon into tiny states."

In an interview with the Jordan Times and Al Rai newspapers Mr. Junblatt explained in detail about Lebanese national reconciliation efforts, the dispute on location for reconciliation talks scheduled for Thursday as well as the role of Syria in Lebanon.

The Druze leader emphasized that "the internal Lebanese conflict is not fuelled by communal feelings but the issue is Gemayel's Falangist policy and his political orientation which lead the country to Falangist domination almost absolutely."

He said that Lebanese institutions of all walks of life are dominated by Falangists.

He said that the Lebanese constitution "which guarantees equal rights to all its citizens entirely differs from what is actually taking place, for the dominant positions in the country are filled with Falangists."

'No legitimacy'

Mr. Junblatt, one of the prominent leaders of the Syrian-backed Lebanese "National Salvation Front," also questioned the "legitimacy" of the Gemayel government.

"We should be cautious when we use the word 'legitimate' while referring to the Gemayel regime," he said. "What is the legitimacy obtained through a parliament which renewed its own existence by itself for 12 consecutive years?" he said.

In reply to a question how he can demand that Lebanon should abrogate its May 17 troop withdrawal pact with Israel while he himself reportedly has a tacit understanding with Israel, he said: "My relationship and political alliances are clear and well known."

He dismissed as unfounded press reports that he has sent a

conciliation.

'No separate state'

Commenting on the Druze drive towards the sea from the Shouf mountains before the ceasefire and on being accused of wanting an outlet to the Mediterranean for a separate state, Mr. Junblatt said the Druze aimed at "wiping out the Falangist presence from the Shouf and remove them (the Falangists) from their strongholds."

"We wanted to protect the Shouf from massacres that the army had undertaken against civilians in Kufurmatra."

He added: "Our failure was due to the intervention of the U.S. Sixth Fleet and this is how Gemayel's legitimate authority is derived, not by Lebanese legitimacy for it is not a real one."

"There has not been any plans for a separate state and there would not be any, because it is against the Islamic Arab-Druze sect, and it would be a suicidal project for the Druze," he said.

Commenting on the Shouf "civil administration" he announced last month, Mr. Junblatt said "it is a temporary popular committee to undertake repairs of roads, water supply networks, electricity, and hospitals that were destroyed by Falangist bombardments."

"This committee will remain until the Lebanese government, which has been carrying out its duties totally ignoring the Druze, areas," he said.

"The PSP and the National Salvation Front define national reconciliation as a re-examination of the political system formulated in 1943 under the motto 'national charter,' he said.

In the views of the PSP and the "National Salvation Front" "national reconciliation also means 'restricting the authorities of the president, giving the people their right to elect their president, revising the present election laws, and establishing constitutional courts to examine the legality of the constitution, as well as establishing a grouping of all sects,' he said.

In addition, he said, national reconciliation also means setting up a non-sectarian parliament.

On whether Syria would change its stance with the Druze, in the event of a national reconciliation plan is reached, Mr. Junblatt said that the conflict is an "internal Lebanese issue."

He said that the Lebanese should realize that Syria has security, political and economic interests in Lebanon and "Syria should at this stage define its interests so as a new Lebanon will be set up on these bases."

Nabatiyeh demonstrators protest against occupation

Ten injured in South Lebanon as Israelis shoot into gathering

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (Agencies) — At least 10 civilians were wounded in this southern Lebanese market town Sunday, when Israeli soldiers opened fire on a large gathering of Muslim worshippers who were protesting against the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon.

The attack occurred when an estimated 100,000 Shi'ite Muslims were celebrating the feast of Ashura, anniversary of the death of Prophet Mohammad's grandson, Hussein, in the year 680. According to Israeli Radio, the demonstrators attacked an Israeli patrol with stones and sticks.

Reporters on the scene said that the worshippers were marching through the town centre when an Israeli patrol opened fire. The worshippers then attacked the patrol with sticks and stone and set four Israeli vehicles on fire, they said.

The reporters also said four Is-

raeli soldiers were wounded in the clash and were carried away by helicopter while ambulances rushed the wounded civilians to local hospitals. Thousands of women and children fled in terror, many fainting in the stampede.

Ashura is traditionally an emotional occasion for Shi'ite Muslims, who predominate in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon.

Nabatiyeh has traditionally been the centre for Ashura celebrations in South Lebanon and thousands of Shi'ite Muslims flock to the town for the yearly ceremonies.

Earlier Sunday, Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddin, a top Shi'ite clergyman and vice-president of the Higher Islamic Council in Lebanon, called for civil resistance against Israel.

Speaking at a religious ceremony to mark the feast, Sheikh Shamseddin warned Israel against closing access to South Lebanon.

He said any such move would be confronted militarily.

An Israeli military spokesman in Tel Aviv Sunday claimed that the soldiers opened fire on the civilians after the patrol was attacked. He said 10 Lebanese were injured, four seriously, and denied that any of the soldiers were hurt, adding that the town has been put under curfew.

Israeli troops still occupy southern Lebanon, after pulling back from positions around Beirut taken during their invasion of the country last year.

Beirut Radio said Israeli forces fired warning shots in the air above a crowd of worshippers in the port area of the southern city of Tyre. It said the Israelis later withdrew and there was no confrontation.

The broadcast said Israeli troops had made many arrests in the Nabatiyeh area.



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday chairs a meeting of the cabinet (Petra photo)

Hussein hopeful Riyadh summit can restore unity

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday evening expressed the hope that the forthcoming Arab summit in Riyadh will be able to re-establish Arab solidarity in form and content so that the Arab Nation can confront the dangers it is exposed to with confidence and strength.

King Hussein, who was speaking at a cabinet meeting, called on all Arabs to extend their support to Iraq to enable that country to repel Iranian aggression which threatens the Gulf region's security, stability and progress.

During the two-hour session, King Hussein reviewed with the ministers the Middle East region's political and security questions. He also briefed the cabinet in detail on the recent developments in the region including the events in the occupied Arab lands, the Iraq-Iran front and Lebanon.

While reviewing the region's events, King Hussein stressed the need for all to be vigilant and conscious of all the circumstances and dangers that affect the Arab Nation and the Palestine problem, the Gulf region and the independence of Lebanon.

The meeting was also attended by Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Al Lawzi, and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

Expansionist ambitions cause burdens for Israeli economy, Anani asserts

By a Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Israel's economy suffers from heavy financial burdens caused by the country's political and military ambitions in the Middle East, according to Minister of Labour Jawad Al Anani.

In an interview with the local newspaper Sawt Al Shaab, Dr. Anani said that Israel seeks to expand its territory geographically at the expense of her Arab neighbours and internationally at the expense of U.S. influence in the region.

The Israeli economic crisis is really a financial crisis and there is a difference between the two," he said in the interview published Sunday. He said: "Israel's economy has some strengths and some weaknesses. It is strong because of Israel's marketing abilities in the West. Israel sells flowers, citrus fruit, diamonds, light arms and light industrial products worth \$2 billion annually, and this is equivalent to the exports of all non-oil producing Eastern Arab countries put together. Israel's agricultural and industrial production and its tourism industry have made big progress and achieved great success because Israel possesses fertile land, ample supplies of water and modern technology."

"In addition to this, the Israelis are helped by the Arab weakness and the failure of the Arab boycott of Israeli goods. On the other hand, the Israeli economy has been suffering from back-breaking economic and financial crises represented in the nation's budget deficits, growing foreign debts, the drop in the value of the shekel, and an increasing dependence on foreign aid, specially from the United States."

"Israel's dependence on foreign aid is also coupled by its persistence in achieving Zionist aims like gaining and annexing more Arab land, settling Jews on Arab territory, linking the West Bank's economy with that of Israel and evicting Arabs from their lands to establish new Israeli settlements,"

Dr. Anani said. "As to the financial aspect of Israel's crisis, I can say that it is linked to the country's endeavours for geographical expansion and for building settlements which will be populated with Jews. Israel believes that the settlements are the best means for ensuring its future, and therefore any price the government pays for building the settlements are justified," he said.

"Since 1977, when the Likud came to power, Israel has been adopting Friedman's ideas in economy. One of these is direct government interference in economic affairs which requires the government to meet moral commitments by feeding the poor and low-income families, especially, Oriental Jews," the labour minister said. "Israel also tends to increase taxes and reduce the value of the shekel to offset the deficit in the budget. As a result of these policies, there has been a sharp rise in prices and a high rate of inflation. At the same time, Israel has been causing the Arabs under its occupation to go hungry and so forcing them to abandon their lands."

"So we can say that the Israeli economic and financial policies have had their adverse impact on the Arabs rather than the Israelis themselves," Dr. Anani stated.

"I cannot support the view that the Zionist entity will collapse because of its economic problems," he said.

"The Israeli economy is based on war. The longer the Middle East region is in a state of war the better for Israel's interests. This policy means maintaining a large standing army and huge number of reserves. This policy also enables Israel to obtain more aid and arms from foreign nations and to lure more Jewish immigrants as long as the newcomers will find new lands and settlements in occupied Arab territory," he concluded.

Shamir makes every Israeli poorer, page 3

PLO denies involvement in north Lebanon fighting

By Lamis Andoni
and Ara Voskian
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Fateh leadership in Kuwait is expected to issue a statement Monday concerning the latest Syrian accusations that the Fateh leadership in northern Lebanon helped the Islamic Unification Movement against the Communists, Palestinian sources said here Sunday.

They also added that Monday's statement will also include details on the role of Fateh in north Lebanon.

Four days of heavy fighting ended early Saturday in Tripoli between the Islamic Unification Movement (IUM) and the Lebanese Communists and their allies.

About 80 people were killed and many more wounded during fierce clashes between two of the strongest factions in Tripoli and northern Lebanon.

A Palestinian statement issued in Amman Sunday expressed regret concerning "distorted" news about the latest clashes in Tripoli which "took the Palestinian leadership by surprise."

The statement said that from the first of the latest Tripoli clashes, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat began conciliatory contacts with the two warring factions.

Mr. Arafat delegated Fateh Revolutionary Council member

Munzer Abu Ghazaleh to the Lebanese Communist Party headquarters where he stayed until the fighting stopped, the statement said.

When the clashes were renewed, Mr. Arafat himself took the initiative with continuous coordination of former Prime Minister Rashid Karamah and other members of the coordination committee, which also include both IUM and the Communists, until ceasefire was reached, the statement added.

"We express our deep regret for the victims who fell as a result of this fighting and we consider this a big loss for the Palestinian revolution," the statement said.

Both the IUM and the Lebanese Communists are considered allies by the PLO against Israel.

The IUM is a regional organisation in northern Lebanon and the strongest faction in Tripoli, while the Communists are a national organisation and the second biggest faction in the north.

Referring to Syrian accusations that the Fateh leadership in Tripoli has helped the IUM against the Communists and their allies, the statement said: "We are not going to reply to all the voices that try to distort the honourable role the Palestinian revolution has played in order to stop the fighting and reaching the agreement reached between all involved parties."

PFLP, DFLP join calls for basic reforms in PLO

DAMASCUS (R) — Two Palestinian groups Sunday demanded basic reforms in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) similar to those sought by rebels against PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat within his own mainstream guerrilla group, Fateh.

The two groups, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) headed by veteran PLO leader George Habash, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) led by Nayef Hawatmeh, announced their proposals at a news conference here.

Without naming Mr. Arafat directly, they blamed "errors and corruption" on the current PLO leadership and demanded genuine "collective leadership" in place of what they clearly saw as one-man rule.

A revolt against Mr. Arafat from within Fateh, the largest of the eight factions making up the PLO, surfaced in May. But Sunday's proposals marked the first time these two groups had given active support to the mood of discontent.

Voicing almost identical views with the rebels within Fateh, the two groups demanded all-out struggle against Israel, a purge against corruption and no dealings

with any peace plan. Spokesmen for the two groups, however, insisted that their plan, to be presented to PLO ruling bodies, was a recipe for unity.

It rejected any move involving a Palestinian homeland in confederation with Jordan, called for the right to escalate armed struggle against Israel from Jordanian territory and demanded ostracism of Egypt, which signed in 1979 the Camp David peace treaty with Israel.

A spokesman for Mr. Hawatmeh said individualism in the present PLO leadership was to blame for mistakes and disorganisation.

The groups said they also wanted changes in the way PLO finances were handled and closer supervision of its funds.

They called for stepped-up guerrilla operations inside Israeli-occupied territories and in Lebanon, where they pledged unity with the Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia and the Syrian-backed National Salvation Front, both of which oppose the Beirut government.

"The only alternative to liberation is armed struggle and this struggle must be intensified inside the occupied territories and in Lebanon," the groups' plan said.

Thatcher names Tebbit to replace Parkinson

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Sunday named one of her most loyal lieutenants, Employment Secretary Norman Tebbit, to take over the trade and industry department following the resignation of Cecil Parkinson.

Mr. Parkinson quit his cabinet post on Friday after disclosures about a love affair with his former secretary embarrassed the government.

In two other cabinet appointments announced by Mrs. Thatcher's press office, Transport Secretary Tom King took over Mr. Tebbit's old job and Nicholas Ridley, financial secretary to the Treasury, won cabinet rank for the first time in Mr. King's place.

Mr. Tebbit, 52, is a tall former airline pilot who in two years at the employment department earned a reputation as a hard-liner with a mandate from Mrs. Thatcher to curb the powers of Britain's trades unions.

His cutting turns of phrase made him a hate-figure for the unions and the Labour Party. Former Labour leader Michael Foot once dubbed him "a semi-house-trained polecat."

He has been frequently mentioned as a possible successor to Mrs. Thatcher when she eventually steps down.

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Iran unlikely to attempt full-scale Gulf blockade

By John Owen-Davies

MUSCAT (R) — Iran is unlikely to attempt a full-scale blockade of the straight of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf but it has the potential to create serious problems for shipping in the region, diplomatic and military sources have said.

The sources believe the Iranian navy, a key factor in maintaining any blockade, does not want direct confrontation with navies from outside the region which could be drawn in if the Strait is sealed.

Oman, which faces Iran at the southern end of the 34-kilometre wide waterway and has only limited naval capability, could be expected to seek help from the

seen necessarily as a high-stake bluff tactic. Military sources said Iranian navy comprised about 11,000 men, including Marines and mainly U.S. vessels supplied to the late Shah before the revolution.

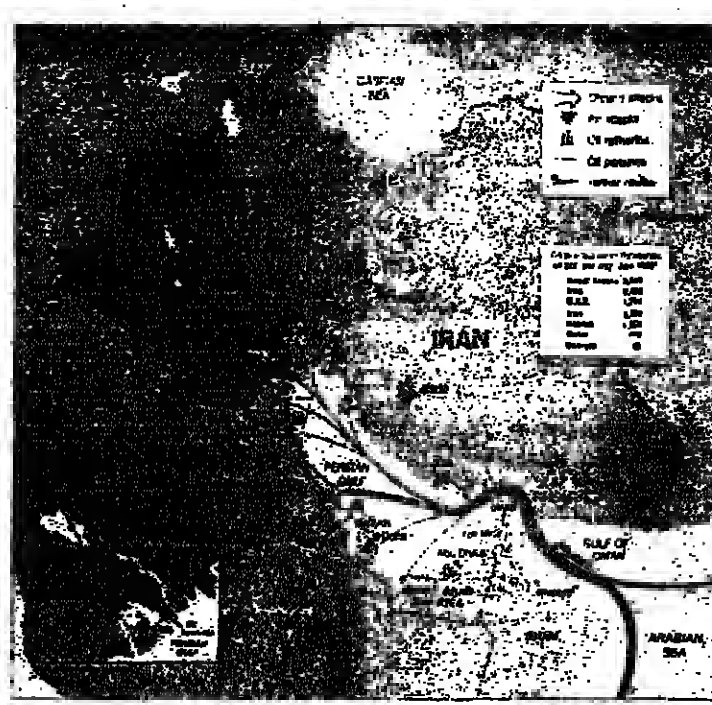
They said Iran also had PC-3 Orion maritime surveillance planes. "We have not seen one of these for a little while. A lack of spares could be the reason," one source said.

The sources said Iran had several cards to play. "Even by taking just a little action, it can force up shipping insurance rates, for instance," one said.

Already, the Iranian threat has triggered rumours, mainly in the Far East, that Iran has indeed closed the Strait and moved on tankers. Official sources in Oman said the rumours had no substance.

Military sources said a major option open to Iran would be to declare a war zone on the high seas west of the Strait of Hormuz, where the two-lane deep-water channel veers towards the Iranian coast.

Such a move, south of the main Iranian naval port of Bandar Abbas, would allow Iran's naval forces to stop ships and, if necessary, force them into port. Iraq, which has been at war with Iran for nearly 37 months, de-



Map shows tanker routes and attacks launched early in the Gulf War.

clared a similar zone some time ago at the head of the Gulf.

The military sources said mining the deep-water channel was not a feasible proposition.

Moored mines can be rooted out easily by minesweepers, while the channel is too deep for ground mines to be effective, the sources said.

Another option for Iran would be the use of shore-based artillery, at least to deter shipping through the Strait or further up the Gulf.

But the sources said Iran was unlikely to resort to such action. They said, however, that any show of force to disrupt Gulf shipping would probably be met initially with intense diplomatic activity and not a counter-thrust.

Iran, which borders the entire eastern side of the Gulf, did try to disrupt shipping. Western nations might decide to help ensure continued stable supplies of oil from the area by the formation of warship-escorted convoys, the sources added.

These latter four states combine with Bahrain and Oman in the Gulf Cooperation Council

(GCC), an essentially pro-Western grouping set up in 1981 amid security fears following the 1979 Iranian revolution and the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

Saudi Arabia, politically and economically the council's strongest nation, said two days ago it would help defend navigation in the Gulf if such freedom was threatened.

While most Gulf Council states have only small navies designed to patrol their own waters, the United States would be expected to provide, with France and Britain, the major force to oversee free navigation, the sources said.

The United States, which never gives precise details of warship movements, said this week the carrier USS Ranger had moved to the Indian Ocean as part of routine deployments.

Three ships of a U.S. Marine amphibious force, including about 2,000 Marines, stationed in recent weeks off troubled Beirut, had passed through the Suez Canal and into the Red Sea, U.S. defence officials said on Tuesday.

'Iraqi pilots not ready to fly French jets'

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi military commander, Gen. Mohammed Gassam, told French journalists in Baghdad Saturday that the delivery of the five French-built Super-Entendard aircraft had been delayed for technical reasons, notably that Iraqi pilots were not yet ready to fly the planes.

But Iraq's aim was not to use the warplanes in the Gulf War but to force its enemy Iran to accept peace in the three-year-old conflict, the government newspaper Al-Jumhuriya said Sunday.

It said in an editorial: "Iraq aims not to use them in the war but to force Iran to accept peace."

Iran has threatened to halt oil shipments through the Gulf if Iraq uses the aircraft to attack Iranian oil installations.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said last Thursday that he expected delivery of the aircraft by the end of the month.

The newspaper criticised the United States and Britain, saying the two countries had put pressure on France not to deliver the planes, which are armed with Exocet missiles.

Iran was insisting on continuing the war and France had taken a positive and correct position towards the conflict and its commitments towards Iraq, it said.

"Those who exert such pressure and create such a fuss must understand that by doing so they do not serve the cause of peace, but encourage the aggressors," the newspaper concluded.

Premier of Yugoslavia to visit Iraq

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslav Prime Minister Milka Planinc starts an official two-day visit to Iraq Monday for talks on bilateral economic ties and major international issues, the government announced Sunday.

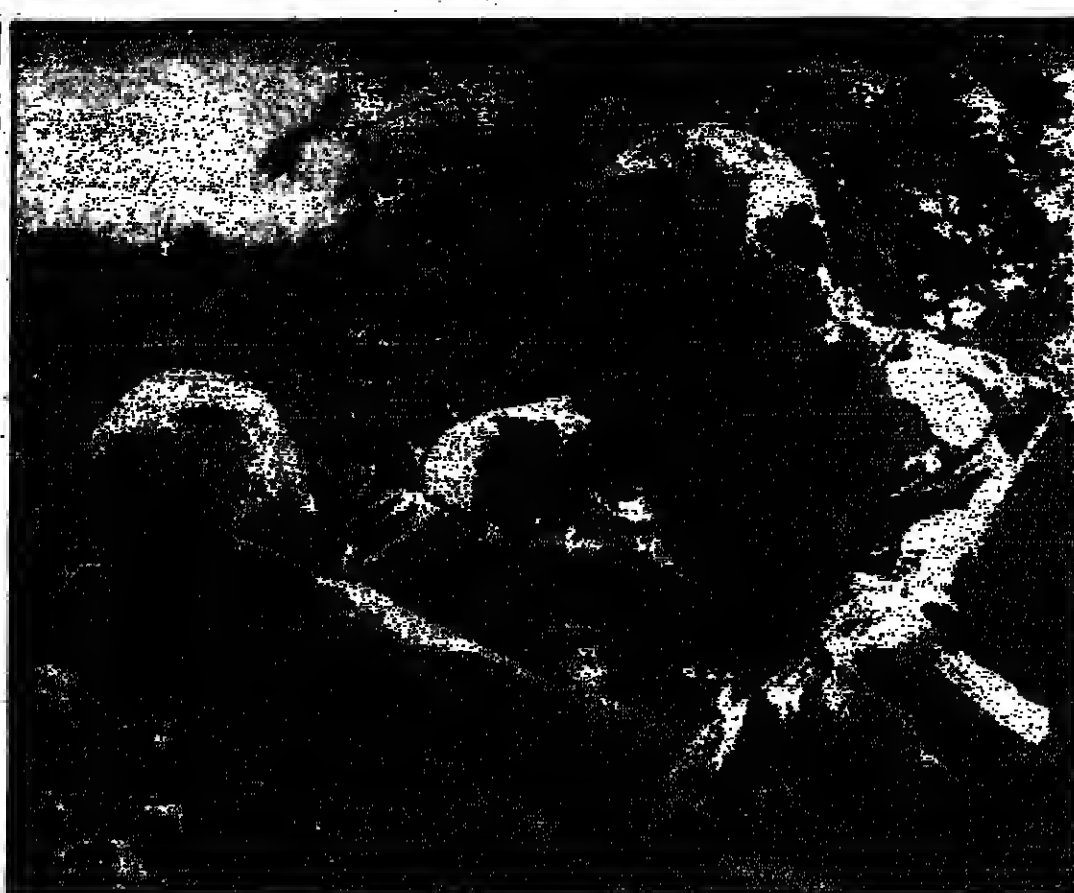
Officials said he would have talks with Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan and other leaders.

They said Mr. Planinc's deputy Zvonko Dragjan had been in Baghdad since Saturday to prepare for the talks which are expected to focus on ways to remove obstacles hampering further improvement of economic cooperation between the two countries.

This was a clear reference to Iraqi debts to Yugoslavia running into millions of dollars, which Baghdad wants to defer.

The debts stem mainly from hydro-electric, housing, telecommunications and other development projects carried out by about 100 Yugoslav companies working in Iraq, diplomats said.

Officials said similar problems between the two friendly countries had been solved successfully in the past and expressed hope the obstacles would be removed during Mr. Planinc's visit.



MEDIC ATTENDS TO INJURED MARINE: A U.S. Marine Medical Corpsman attends a Marine in trenches near the Beirut International Airport, believed to have been suffering from concussion while returning fire at snipers. (A.P. wirephoto)

crustal Airport, believed to have been suffering from concussion while returning fire at snipers. (A.P. wirephoto)

Shamir makes every Israeli poorer

By David Rogers

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's new Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, taking power amid the most severe economic crisis in the country's history, has launched an austerity programme that will make almost every Israeli poorer.

The former underground fighter's introduction to office has been traumatic, since he has found himself doing three jobs — prime minister, foreign minister and acting finance minister — and appealing for public calm.

Finance Minister Yoram Aridor, long under attack, resigned after proposing that the entire economy should be linked to the United States dollar, a rescue plan that was met with shock and widespread derision.

Mr. Shamir now faces the difficulty of finding a replacement acceptable to his divided coalition of right-wing and religious parties while a groundswell seems to be building to hold early general elections.

Mr. Shamir was forced to make the economy his top priority when he succeeded Menachem Begin, who was uninterested in economic matters and delegated them to others.

The storm clouds have been gathering for months. Foreign debt has risen to \$21 billion — about the same as this year's budgeted government expenditure — and inflation is running at 131 per cent.

Most Israeli economists and businessmen blame Mr. Aridor's anti-inflation policies for exacerbating the situation.

The main strategy was to slow the Israeli shekel's devaluation against foreign currencies, but the shekel's artificially strong ex-

change rate damaged exports and brought a wave of imported consumer goods.

Thousands of Israelis took holidays abroad on cheaply purchased foreign currency, confident that their wages were protected because they are indexed to inflation.

The spendthrift mood was enhanced by a buoyant Tel Aviv stock exchange, where small investors reaped ready profits until the market dipped this year.

Last August, Mr. Aridor abandoned his strong shekel policy and many Israelis began moving their savings into dollars.

Finally commercial bank shares, which play a major role in the economy and have proved a safe hedge against inflation, came under selling pressure in the stampede for dollars.

Mr. Shamir's initial austerity package — an 18 per cent devaluation and halving of government subsidies — was not as tough as the treasury hoped but will mean across-the-board price rises.

Mr. Shamir has told the nation more austerity measures must follow but he may face a hard task in persuading his ministerial colleagues to take sufficiently strong action.

In the past, the Likud coalition has dithered and fought over economic steps.

The cabinet may be spurred on by the knowledge that failure to agree could pitch them into early elections at a time of public anger and cynicism over the handling of the economy.

Some politicians believe early elections — the present government could theoretically hold on until 1985 — are anyway a near-inevitability some time next year.

The opposition plans to table a no-confidence motion when parliament reconvenes for its winter session next week. The government also faces a challenge from the Histadrut trade union federation which is now calling for its resignation.

"The worrying thing is that elections may not resolve matters... one would bet on another divided coalition emerging," one senior Western diplomat said.

The economic future is further clouded by debt repayments, for Israel must now start paying off loans taken to re-equip the army after the 1973 Middle East war.

Economists worry that this makes the country more dependent on United States aid and Washington might use this to limit Israel's options in a future Middle East crisis.

"The fear of being at U.S. mercy stirred the storm of outrage which greeted Mr. Aridor's plan," now dropped, to "dollarise the economy" by calculating state budgets and salaries in dollars.

One immediate worry is what happens when the Tel Aviv stock exchange, closed because of panic selling, finally reopens.

Although departure of the unpopular Mr. Aridor may have cooled some of the grassroots anger, there have been bitter words over the government's handling of the crisis.

The most frequent charge is that the government misled the public by advising them to hold on to bank shares, pledging there would be no devaluation.

"Those who thought the government were liars, prospered," said a furious Tel Aviv shopkeeper.

Libyan aide warns France about arrest

PARIS (R) — The extradition of a Libyan national wanted for murder in Italy could have serious consequences for France, Libya's diplomatic head in Paris said Saturday in an interview published Sunday.

Mr. Hafiana called France's arrest on Oct. 6 of Said Mohammed Rachid, wanted by Italian police for the murder of a Libyan businessman in Milan last year.

"If Rachid is extradited to Italy, there could be new incidents between Paris and Tripoli. France must therefore assume its responsibilities," Mr. Hafiana was quoted as saying by the Catholic French daily La Croix.

The arrest of Rachid, has been linked in press reports here to Libya's three-day ban on 37 French nationals leaving its territory earlier this week.

Turkish parties start campaigning for elections

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's political parties started official campaigning Sunday for Nov. 6 general elections, the first election since the 1980 military coup.

The leaders of the three parties approved by the military to contest the elections were holding open-air rallies in three politically-significant provinces.

The leader of the rightist National Democracy Party (NDP), retired Gen. Turgut Sunalp was in the Aegean coastal city of Izmir. Turgut Ozalp of the rightist Motherland Party (MP) was in the north-eastern city of Erzurum, and the leader of the mildly leftist Populist Party (PPI), Necdet Calp, was in the eastern city of Malatya.

Political observers in Ankara said the significance of these areas was that each was a political stronghold for pre-coup parties, and the new military-approved politicians now were vying for grassroots support.

The military authorities banned old-line parties and politicians after the 1980 takeover. Since raising a ban in April on political activity, the authorities have sought to exclude anyone connected with the old parties.

The new parties approved for next month's election have until Nov. 5 to campaign, put up posters and hold open-air and indoor rallies with the permission of local authorities.

On Oct. 30, each party will have 20 minutes on state radio and television for a campaign speech.

Moroccans say foreign press distorts local news

RABAT (R) — Morocco's press trade union said Sunday foreign newspapers threatened to distort Moroccan public opinion and undermine the country's own press.

The trade union, dominated by newspaper owners, said in a communiqué that foreign newspapers had views, interests and orientations out of line with Morocco's problems and national causes.

The union urged that circulation restrictions be imposed on foreign newspapers which, it said, cost Morocco about \$10 million a year in foreign exchange.

It urged the government to prohibit the sale of foreign papers the same day they are published.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 Koran
17:40 Children's Programme
18:05 Children's programme
18:25 Children's Programme
19:15 Programmes review
19:30 Local Programme on Army
20:00 News in Arabic
20:35 Programme on the Oryx
21:00 Local Programme
21:40 Arabic Series
22:40 Arabic Variety
23:10 News in Arabic
23:10 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

19:00 French Programme
19:30 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Comedy: Benson
21:00 One Hundred Great Paintings
21:10 Nancy Astor — Episode 3
22:00 News in English
22:15 The A-Team

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 9560 KHz. SW

07:00 Morning Show
07:20 News Bulletin
08:00 News Summary
08:05 Morning Show
08:10 Pop Session
08:15 News Summary
08:30 Pop Session
08:35 News Bulletin
08:40 News Bulletin
08:45 Over a Cup of Tea
08:50 News Summary
09:00 News Summary
09:05 Instruments. Old Favourites
09:10 Book Club
09:15 Pope Session
09:20 News Summary
09:25 Sports Round-up
09:30 Animal, Vegetable, Mineral
09:35 Newsdesk
09:40 Date with a Star
09:45 News Summary
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24:00 News Summary

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 News 06:30 Clinging to the Wreckage 06:45 Letter from London 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:05 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 07:30 Picking up Bluegrass 07:45 The Nature of Britain 08:00 News 08:30 Baker's Half Dozen 08:40 World News 08:45 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 09:30 Serah and Company 10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections 10:15 Vietnamese Niphs 10:30 Anything Goes 11:00 World News 11:05 British Press Review 11:15 Waveguide 11:25 Good Books 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Music Now 12:15 Short Story 12:30 Rock Salad 13:00 World News 13:05 News About Britain 13:15 In Patagonia 13:30 Sir Adrian Baker: A Life of Music 14:00 Radio Newsworld 14:15 Brain of Britain 1983 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:05 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 15:30 Country Style 15:45 People of the Pacific Century 16:15 Letter from Ireland 16:30 Musical Milestones 17:00 Radio Newsworld 17:15 Outlook 18:00 World News 18:05 Commentary 18:15 Hot Air 18:30 Coast to Coast 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:05 Book Choice 19:15 My Music 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 No Stopping Stopped 21:00 Outlook 21:30 Stock Market Report 21:45 Look Ahead 21:45 Peaches Choice 22:00 World News 22:05 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 22:30 Sports International 22:00 Network U.K. 22:15 In Patagonia 22:30 Rock Salad 24:00 World News 08:00 The World Today 08:25 Book Choice 08:30 Sports Round-up 08:40 World News 08:45 Commentary 09:15 Hot Air 09:30 Brain of Britain 1983

VOICE OF AMERICA

1260, 5965, 7200, 15205, 17725 KHz

06:00 VOA Morning News; News summaries; Daily business report, Science and medicine, Sports reports; VOA editorial and world and U.S. opinion round-ups; Daily documentary analysis 17:00 News 17:10 Magazine Show 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 Newsline 18:30 Now Music USA 19:00 News 19:10 Magazine Show

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

BALLET

* The Scottish Ballet performs at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

* On musical instruments, by Hassan Al Fakir, at the Royal Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 6610267
American Centre 44371
American Centre Library 41520
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Haya Arts Centre 665195
Husseini Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 47793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash 14th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquity of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays) (10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30126.
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37109.

ARRIVALS

06:55 Cairo (EA)
07:00 Cairo (EA)
07:05 Agaba (RU)
07:10 Abu Dhabi (RU)
07:15 Damascus (RU)
07:20 Jeddah (RU)
07:25 Riyadh (SV)
07:30 Doha (RU)
07:35 Kuwait (KAC)
07:40 Jeddah (RU)
07:45 Doha (RU)
07:50 Muscat, Dubai (RU)
07:55 Doha, Bahrain (RU)
08:00 Beirut (RU)
08:05 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GA)
13:00 Moscow (SU)
13:25 Cairo (EA)
14:00 Belgrade, Istanbul (JU)
14:40 Kuwait (KAC)
15:20 Jeddah, Medina (SV)
15:30 Doha, Bahrain (RU)
15:35 Baghdad (RU)
16:30 Bangkok (RU)
16:45 Tunis, Athens (TU)
17:15 Beirut (MEA)
17:15 New York, Amsterdam (RU)
17:15 Athens (RU)
17:20 London, Belgrade (RU)
18:15 Bahrain (RU)
18:30 Cairo (EA)
18:45 Amsterdam, Athens, Beirut (KLM)
19:55 Cairo (EA)
20:30 Jeddah (SV)
20:40 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)

DEPARTURES

06:15 Damascus (RU)
06:30 Beirut (RU)
07:00 Agaba (RU)
07:40 Larnaca, Paris (AF)
07:55 Cairo (RU)
08:30 Athens (OA)
10:15 Damascus, Athens, Zurich (SR)
10:20 Riyadh (SV)
11:00 Vienna, New York (SV)
11:30 Athens (RU)
11:30 Cairo (RU)
11:45 Bahrain (RU)
12:00 Paris, London (RU)
12:15 Frankfurt, Geneva (RU)

PRAYER TIMES

06:10 Fajr
05:42 (Sunrise) Shuruq
11:22 Dhuhur
14:26 'Asr
17:02 Maghreb
18:25 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, Tel. (08) 53250, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:55 Cairo (EA)
07:00 Cairo (EA)
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07:20 Jeddah (RU)
07:25 Riyadh (SV)
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08:00 Beirut (RU)
08:05 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GA)
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13:25 Cairo (EA)
14:00 Belgrade, Istanbul (JU)
14:40 Kuwait (KAC)
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15:35 Baghdad (RU)
16:30 Bangkok (RU)
16:45 Tunis, Athens (TU)
17:15 Beirut (MEA)
17:15 New York, Amsterdam (RU)
17:15 Athens (RU

NCC body debates privatisation of TCC

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Consultative Council's Services Committee Sunday held a meeting to discuss a proposal for transforming the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) into a public company.

Another subject on the committee's agenda was a housing project for the Madaba and Hama regions south of Amman.

Attending the committee meeting were Minister of Communications Mohammad Al Zaben and Housing Corporation Director Hamdullah Al Nabulsi.

Thai aviation delegation arrives for discussions

AMMAN (Petra) — A civil aviation delegation from Thailand arrived here Sunday for a four-day visit to Jordan.

During the visit, the delegation will hold talks with officials at the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, on amending a Thai-Jordanian agreement on air transport signed in 1978.

The cabinet last Wednesday chose Jordan's team to hold talks with the Thai delegation. The team is led by CAA Deputy Director Elias Aghabi.

Valencia mayor briefed on UDD

AMMAN (J.T.) — Visiting mayor of the Spanish city of Valencia, Mr. Ricardo Casado Sunday visited the Urban Development Department (UDD) and met its director, Dr. Hisham Al Zaghra. The mayor was briefed on a project underway for developing five districts of Amman which are inhabited by a total of 15,000 people.

Dr. Zaghra said that his department also has plans to develop three low income districts which are presently inhabited by 41,000 people.

Mr. Casado arrived here Friday evening for a three-day visit at the invitation of the Amman Municipality.



Visiting Mayor of Valencia Ricardo Casado is Sunday briefed on the activities of the Urban Development Department during his three-day visit to Amman (Petra photo)

Lectures focus on area's bibliography

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan took part in Sunday morning session of the International Conference on the History of Bilad Al Sham which was opened at the University of Jordan Saturday.

Four lectures were delivered in the morning session dealing with the history of Bilad Al Sham under the Byzantine rule and in the Pre-Islamic eras published in the past 50 years.

In the afternoon session the participants listened to research work prepared by Dr. Ibrahim Al Adawi from Cairo University which deals with the Byzantine Empire and its resistance to the Islamic conquests in Bilad Al Sham.

Another research paper was presented by Dr. Nicola Ziyadeh from Lebanon dealing with Bilad Al Sham under the Byzantines and the Arabs.

At the university, an exhibition of books dealing with Bilad Al Sham history was opened Sunday.

Also the French Cultural Centre, in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities, opened an exhibition which displays the most important archaeological finds and research work on Bilad Al Sham.

A collection of pictures, maps, drawings, and findings by archaeological teams in Jordan are on display.

Parenthood planning seminar opens

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Representatives from the Middle East and North Africa regional offices of the International Parenthood Planning Federation (IPPF) inaugurated Friday a one-week seminar entitled "Evaluation" at the Regency Palace Hotel.

Representatives from societies in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia, along with the president and members of the regional executive committee participated in the seminar during which they discussed issues concerning societies in the region.

Mr. Tawfik Isseran, president of the Middle East and North Africa region, and Dr. Ahmad Hammoudan, the regional representative in Jordan, said in an interview with the Jordan Times that the IPPF is the parent institution of all parenthood organizations in the world, including 106 societies in its membership.

The IPPF they pointed, is a non-governmental international institution financed by governments and other institutions who in turn finance the societies members within the federation.

Activities planned by parenthood organizations in each country include studies made on an academic basis to understand social problems and an attempt to find solutions to these in order to achieve better living conditions and an understanding of the role of each individual within the society.

To facilitate its duties, the federation divided itself into regions. There are six regions in the world: The Western Hemisphere Region, the European Region, the South and South Asian Region, the Indian Ocean Region, the Africa Region, and the Middle East and North Africa Region which includes in its membership: Egypt, Sudan, Tunisia, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Iraq, Bahrain, North and South Yemen, Cyprus and Afghanistan.

The main aim of the seminars held, Dr. Hammoudan pointed out, as it is clear from the title, is emphasizing the role of evaluation within a modern framework displaying the freedom those societies operate through. The delicate subjects these societies deal with, he added, are handled carefully with maximum concern for social understanding and the academic studies produced on each particular society in relation to set activities.

Mr. Isseran, president of the region, delivered a speech at the opening of the seminar, in which he explained that evaluation is an essential component of the planning and implementation process of any programme. The IPPF, he added, has recognised the importance of evaluation and has placed emphasis on this activity. In the IPPF three year plans, the necessity, objectives and strategy of programme evaluation has been clearly spelled out. The task of evaluation, he added, is to improve policy making, programmes and projects through studying their accomplishments, effectiveness and impact.

Mr. Isseran went on to say that it is decided periodically to undertake overall programme evaluations of associations as part of the evaluation process within the IPPF.

This explains the objectives and procedures of such overall programme evaluations which will be carried out in partnership between the Federal Planning Association (FPA) and the IPPF regional bureau and secretariat, he said. Each of the three participants he added will benefit from the overall programme evaluation in different ways.

The FPA, he said, will obtain an outside perspective on programme planning and implementation, as well as assistance in the improvement of existing programmes and the development of new ones. The region will receive in-depth information on the programme development, technical assistance and monitoring functions, a more realistic basis for the resource allocation process and for planning future support to FPAs, he said. While the centre will receive feedback on the policy making process of the federation as a whole, as well as information enabling IPPF to fulfil its accountability towards donors.

Mr. Isseran went on to explain that, in order to fulfil the need of all three parties, it is necessary to have some degree of standardisation of the approach to overall programme evaluation, although any framework must not be so rigid as to inhibit flexibility of professional judgment in the face of varying local circumstances.

The agenda of the seminar, that will run until Thursday Oct. 20, includes discussion aims of the parenthood organisations and methods of evaluation at Monday's session. Tuesday they will discuss the evaluation and the organisation of plans and programmes. Wednesday they will discuss the overall evaluation of programmes while Thursday will contain an evaluation of parenthood organisations in the society and the closing ceremony.

Both mayors agreed in principle to sign an agreement designed to bolster cooperation between Valencia and Amman and to encourage visits and the exchange of expertise between officials of the two cities. Sunday evening Mr. Casado left for home and was seen off at the airport by this counterpart from Amman.

Lawzi marks food day

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan witnessed big strides in agricultural development over the past three decades and is making every effort to achieve food security, according to agriculture Under-Secretary Salem Al Lawzi.

Speaking on the anniversary of the World Food Day, Dr. Lawzi said that his ministry has attached great importance to agriculture and has implemented numerous agricultural projects in the Jordan Valley and highlands because agriculture is a major factor for ensuring the country's food security.

Also on the anniversary Sunday, the Arab League issued a statement urging Arab states to intensify their cooperation with other nations in the field of increasing agricultural production.

Over the past two decades, the Arab World's increase in food production did not exceed 3.3 per cent per annum while demand increased by 5.3 per cent, the statement said.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Communications Saturday announced that it has issued a set of commemorative stamps on the occasion of World Food Day. The stamps entitled "food security" are of 10, 25, 40, 50, and 100 fils denominations, and are available at post offices throughout the country.

Minister of Communications Mohammad Al Zaben said that this issue aims to underline the importance the Jordanian government attaches to solving the food problem through the development of schemes aimed at increasing agricultural production.

Food: An integral part of world security, page 5

NRA head visits oil exploration area, dams

AMMAN (Petra) — The president of the Natural Resources Authority (NRA), Mr. Yousef Al Nimri and his deputy Mr. Ahmad Dakhlan Sunday examined the findings of an Iraqi team who have been conducting seismological surveys in the Azraq region as part of a national programme of oil exploration in Jordan.

The two officials who paid a visit to the prospecting site were briefed on the team's programme and activities. They also inspected the desert dams project which the NRA is currently implementing in the Khaldiye region.

One of the major dams is the Khaldiye Dam which will have a storage capacity of 1.5 million cubic metres. The water behind the dam is to be used for implementing a pilot project of removing salinity from the underground water in the Azraq and Khaldiye regions.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Royal Court thanks public

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Court Sunday issued a statement expressing their appreciation to the public for presenting their condolences to the royal family on the death of Prince Nayef Ibn Abdullah. The Prince died and was buried last Wednesday.

Cement imports to be banned

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director-General of the Jordan Cement Factories Company, Shawkat Al Sbul, said that imports of cement into Jordan will be banned as from the end of October. He added that the company will supply the local market with all its needs.

WHO conference to begin today

AMMAN (Petra) — A World Health Organisation (WHO) regional health committee for the eastern Mediterranean area opens a meeting at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman Monday. Taking part in the four-day meeting will be representatives from 21 nations who will discuss ways to achieve "Health for all by the year 2,000". Also to be discussed by the committee members are topics connected with drinking water and the improvement of the environment. The Afghan, Qatari and North Yemeni health ministers arrived in Amman Sunday to take part in the meeting.

Obaidi meets Bangladeshi planner

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary-General of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), Mahdi Al Obaidi, Sunday reviewed with the visiting head of the planning institute in Bangladesh, Rahman Sabhan, the scope of cooperation between the CAEU and the Bangladeshi institute and ways of promoting economic relations between the CAEU member countries and other developing countries especially in Asia.

Amman to build service car centre

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Development Corporation (ADC) is currently studying a plan to establish a central service car park in Amman for cars operating between Amman and other cities and between Amman and neighbouring Arab capitals, according to ADC Director Sami Al Rashid. He added that the study is underway for choosing the best location for the park the criteria for which will be the easing of traffic downtown but without affecting the development work being carried out in Amman as well as facilities to increase the number of transportation units, said Mr. Rashid. Apart from the car park, the project will include retail stores, a tourist advice centre and general utilities.

Pharmacists head repeats drug stand

AMMAN (J.T.) — The president of the Jordanian Pharmacists Association (JPA), Ghaleb Sabbarin, has reiterated that pharmacists in Jordan are by law allowed to dispense medicine to patients without referring to their physician or specialist.

Badran: Concrete technology findings to be implemented

AMMAN (Petra) — An international conference on concrete technology in developing nations opened at Yarmouk University Liaison Office in Amman Sunday. The four-day conference is being attended by specialists from 20 nations in addition to Jordan.

Addressing the opening session, Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran said that the conference is being held at a time when Jordan is witnessing developments in various technological fields. The findings of the conference is of paramount importance and will be put into practice in Jordan, Dr. Badran said.

Also addressing the conference was the university's dean of engineering, Dr. Ali Nayfeh, who spoke about the problems connected with concrete technology.

President of the Jordanian Engineers Association Laith Shbeilat also made a speech at the opening session expressing the association's readiness to take part in different scientific activities.

He called on Jordanian universities to establish a special centre where specialists can work together to benefit the local construction sector.

The participants will discuss working papers dealing with the technology of concrete, its design, quality and the different types used in construction.

Countries taking part in the conference are: Canada, USA, Denmark, Singapore, Switzerland, Turkey, Britain, Norway, Yugoslavia, Greece, Poland, India, Iraq, Sudan, Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Syria and Lebanon, in addition to specialists from Jordan's universities and engineers from the public and private sectors in Jordan.



Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayyoub (left) and the director of a foreign consultancy firm Sunday sign a contract for the production of a feasibility study on the proposed establishment of a slaughter house at Duleil (Petra photo)

Abatoir feasibility contract awarded

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply Sunday awarded a contract to a foreign consultancy firm to conduct a feasibility study for the establishment of a slaughter house for poultry at Duleil, north east of Zarqa.

Under the agreement, signed at the Ministry of Supply, the consultancy firm will prepare the necessary studies and tender documents and supervise the implementation of the project.

The projected slaughter house, which is expected to have a productive daily capacity of 30 tonnes, is designed to meet the increasing demand for fresh poultry meat.

The abatoir will be supplied with up to date equipment for slaughtering the birds as well as packing and refrigerating facilities, and will have a unit for marketing the surplus product abroad.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayyoub and the director of the consultancy firm.

'Obeid details outcome of Social Security Association conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Geneva-based International Social Security Association (ISSA) has decided to open a regional office in the Arab region, approved the use of Arabic at the association's meetings and granted the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) observer status at its conferences, according to Social Security Corporation (SSC) Director-General Farhi 'Obeid.

Mr. 'Obeid was speaking on his return Sunday from the ISSA 12-day meeting which was attended by delegates from 122 countries including 13 from the Arab World.

During the ISSA conference, the Arab group agreed on a unified strategy to be adopted at all ISSA meetings. The ISSA conference elected five Arab delegates to serve as permanent members to the ISSA board which consists of 30 members, Mr. 'Obeid said.

The conference, he said, discussed the role of social security especially in conjunction with education, health insurance, housing and other related social issues. The delegates to the conference also discussed the ISSA's programmes in the coming three years, Mr. 'Obeid said.

ISSA was established in 1927 to promote the development of social security through the improvement of its application and administration.

Meanwhile, the SSC here issued a report on its activities and programmes to mark the fifth year of the publishing of the Social Security Law in Jordan.

So far the SSC law has been extended to cover 190,000 workers in various public and private establishments, the report said. It said that the SSC so far has paid JD 3.5 million in compensation, pensions and other expenses in cases where occupational injuries were concerned.

According to the report, the SSC, over the past five years, built and distributed 250 housing units to low income families and helped government institutions and public companies implement housing projects for their employees.



Farhi 'Obeid



University of Jordan President Abdel Salam Al Majali Saturday addresses participants at the National Seminar on University-Industry Relations (Petra photo)

University, industry links discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — The six day national seminar on university-industry relations opened at the University of Jordan Saturday. The seminar is devoted to discussing scopes relating cooperation between the university engineering faculties and the industrial sector.

Addressing the opening session, University President Abdel Salam Al Majali outlined the importance of the seminar because of its direct links with science and technology.

Dr. Othman Abu Yazid, who is representing UNESCO at the seminar made a speech in which he referred to the organisation's role in supporting and developing engineering education. Dr. Abu Yazid called for more efforts to develop university programmes related to scientific, industrial and engineering works.

Jordan Times

Responsible Editor: MOHAMMAD AMAD
 Editor: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH
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 Advertising Manager: FERNANDO FRANCIS
 Editorial and advertising offices: Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan
 Telephones: 666320, 666265 Telex: 21497 ALRAJJO
 Telegram: JORTIMES, Amman, Jordan
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After the embargo

TODAY, October 17, 1983, marks the passage of a decade since the ministers of Arab oil producing countries decided to impose an embargo on shipments of their oil to countries which actively supported Israel in the October war of 1973. That support manifested itself in Israel's occupation of Arab territories that it seized in 1967 and its subsequent refusal to comply with repeated U.N. resolutions on the matter. It is timely to assess the impact of that oil embargo.

The answer to the question of whether the embargo accomplished its goal is "no". The purpose of imposing the restrictions were simply to help bring about a complete Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territory occupied in 1967, and to help restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. That action achieved neither. Since then, Israel has gone on to occupy part of Lebanon, in addition to its continuous occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan. However, the events of October 1973 and early 1974 did produce one tangible result. The sudden perceived shortage of fuel brought home to a wide segment of the American public the fact that the Middle East is more than just Israel. United States policy and relations vis-a-vis the Arab region came under general, albeit temporary, scrutiny and U.S. interests in the area and Israel's wanton use of U.S.-supplied weapons no longer went unquestioned.

Western pundits often speculate as to whether another oil embargo might be imposed. Events, however, are shaped by specific circumstances and timing. Recourse to an oil embargo is not always the only or even the strongest option open to the Arab Nation in its continuing struggle against Zionist invasion and occupation. Oil is a powerful complement to a whole array of factors that could be drawn upon if a comprehensive marshalling of resources is deemed necessary whether to deflect a perceived danger, to defend a right, or to regain a nation's usurped territory. As a matter of fact, unlike the U.S., the Arabs have not used the embargo in peacetime to support political or economic claims. The Arabs resorted to that action only when a war of aggression was underway against two Arab states — a war made possible only by immediate and massive U.S. arms support that helped systematically to destroy Arab towns and vital economic facilities.

The world understands a nation's right to self-defence with all its resources. Short of such a defence by the Arab countries themselves, the understanding that some countries express for the Arab cause in various international fora will remain more akin to diplomatic courtesy than to an unambiguous, reliable and effective stand with the Arabs.

In the 10 years that have elapsed since the 1973 oil embargo, various developments in the Arab World have not included the appearance on the horizon of any real chance to establish a comprehensive and just peace in the area. The 1973 oil embargo was due unequivocally to the U.S. administration's bias and the imbalance of their policies in the area. Those policies have not changed despite the vital interests of the U.S. in the Arab World. — O.A.P.C. Bulletin.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Iraq suffers for Iran

AN UPROAR has arisen following the announcement that Iraq will receive French Super Etendard planes to defend itself against Iranian attacks. The uproar was caused by Iran's threats to the Gulf region which should remain open and free for the shipping of all nations. Iran has aroused this consternation to cover up for its own failure in the Gulf war and wants to divert the world's attention and that of the Iranian people from the successive failures of the regime both on the domestic and external fronts.

Those who are concerned about the shipping in the Gulf ought to put pressure on Iran to make it end its war with Iraq rather than try to stop Iraq from obtaining the French warplanes which it intends to defend itself. It is the Iranian regime that has so far turned down all initiatives for peace and is persisting in pursuing its war against neighbouring Iraq.

Those who are concerned about the freedom of shipping in the Gulf ought to know that they have no right to interfere in Iraq's affairs and its arms purchases. Iraq wants the planes to defend its people, its territory and waters from Iranian aggression. Iran is to be blamed for the continuation of the war and the Iranian regime is solely responsible for any threat to shipping in the Gulf and the threat to peace in that region.

Al Distour: Need to rewrite history

IN HIS opening of the fourth conference on the History of Bilad Al Sham, King Hussein Saturday presented a bright and glorious history of the region over the past ages. Bilad Al Sham has witnessed the greatest stages of Arab history because it represented the rock on which successive invasions were aborted and destroyed. Jordan, which is now hosting the conference, has played a basic and major role in that glorious history, demographically and geographically. Jordan constitutes the heart of Bilad Al Sham and throughout the Umayyad period it was the focus of attention and the battlefield where the Arabs repelled aggression and invasion.

The people of Bilad Al Sham now have the responsibility of re-studying in depth the different stages of the region's history so as to arrive at the true facts, and they should shoulder the task of re-writing its history objectively and truthfully. Our history should serve as a beacon for the coming generations and as an incentive for the present generations to work towards a brighter and more prosperous future.

Sawt Al Shaab: Lessons in the past

THE INTERNATIONAL conference of Bilad Al Sham underlines the close links between the history of this region and its land and people. His Majesty King Hussein sponsored the conference because of his belief in the role that this region has played in Arab history and in order to emphasise the meaning of this conference which is designed to arrive at the truth and the facts of history.

The era which is to be discussed by the scholars is that extending between the beginning of the Byzantine period and the end of the Umayyad rule in Damascus. This period truly reflects the region's struggle in repelling aggressors and invaders, and bears proof of the existence of Arabs in this region for over thousands of years. King Hussein was keen on underlying this important fact and in emphasising the unity of the people who have lived in this part of the Arab World.

All the attempts by invaders to occupy our land have ended in failure and defeat. Invaders have left traces and marks on our soil but the aggression itself has been removed and the land remains truly Arab owned by its people. The events of the past should serve as lessons for the generations of today and tomorrow and should guide them in their endeavours to achieve progress and prosperity.

DE FACTONOMICS

Limits of Israeli intransigence

By T.A. Jaber

Israel is currently going through a devastating economic crisis as manifested in the one-week closure of the stock exchange, the continuous devaluation of the shekel by 50 per cent since last July, the three-digit inflation of 140 per cent in 1983, the increasing balance of payments deficit, the low growth of productivity and income, the pressure to cut the budget by one billion dollars, the general strike of workers and employees which was effected yesterday, the huge foreign debt of \$21 billion, and many other problems. The list of these problems can be expanded further to make it a more detailed one that plague the Israeli economy.

The deep-rooted causes of this and previous economic cri-

ses are well-known and can be summarised as follows: Most of the cost of establishing Israel and financing its occupation and military expansion has been provided by other countries or imposed on them. This includes American economic and military assistance, German repatriation payments, Jewish Appeal Fund transfers, Israeli bonds sales, the confiscation of Arab land and resources, tax revenues from Arab citizens under Israeli occupation, and many other sources. It is not always easy and forthcoming to raise the Israeli earnings from all these sources to match the Israeli needs, particularly as these needs now are not for a small state willing to cooperate, but that of an intransigent regional

power. The gap will widen more and more which will force Israel to reconsider its priorities. Though the Zionist movement hopes to have its options always open, the increasing economic gap in Israel will force a limit on these hopes.

The missions of the International Monetary Fund that visit member countries have consistently pointed out that they differ with Israeli policies of rapid inflation, unstable exchange rate and extensive subsidies to local consumption, production and exports. The Israeli official response has been that their defence requirements have overriding priority over other considerations. What they really mean by defence is attack and

occupation of additional Arab territories.

While the present economic crisis is severe in Israel, it will in no way lead to its collapse. On the other hand, the additional burden of the economic gap, since it cannot be shifted totally to other sources, has to be incurred by the Israeli citizen, be it a wage-earner or an employer. The confidence of the Israelis in their economic policies and their government has been also undermined. If this justified complaint and restlessness continued in the Israeli society, an internal factor will gradually evolve to limit Israeli expansionist policies and practices.

There are other factors that, in time, will compel Israeli decision-makers to reconsider their destructive designs in the

region in addition to the necessity of shifting larger portions of the cost to the Israeli citizens. A point of caution should be mentioned here. The theme of this article does not reflect the understanding that Arabs should feel relieved and do nothing but wait for common sense to prevail in Israel, rather, they should strengthen their steadfastness and common position in facing Israeli designs. Moreover, knowing these factors can provide directions for Arab emphasis and action.

The death of Israeli soldiers while fighting in the occupied areas has a tremendous impact on the psychology of the Israeli society, particularly when they are no longer defending Israel in geographic terms. The fee-

ling of living permanently in a fortress is not at all healthy. The occupation and administration of 2.5 million Palestinians and another half million Lebanese will erode, though gradually, the traditional sympathy and support in the West for Israel. It will also lead to a double-standard treatment of people, an erosion of the claimed Israeli democracy.

There are clearcut limits and constraints on Israeli occupation and expansion which is not only economic, but also psychological and political. Israel has always been using such circumstances as the present ones to move to other frontiers and engage in new wars. Watch for the hot areas in the coming year, namely, the Arab Gulf and Syria.

Piecemeal approach to Mideast conflict falls short of achieving peace, says Qasem

Following is text of the speech delivered by Foreign Minister Mordechai Qasem to the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City on Tuesday, Oct. 11.

"Peace in the Middle East: Jordan's perception."

Mr. President, distinguished members and guests of the Council on Foreign Relations:

It is a pleasure to be here with you today. I feel privileged to have been given the opportunity to address such a distinguished audience.

Because of your commitment to better understanding of world affairs, I view in your presence an evidence of your belief in dialogue as a prerequisite to that understanding, which I am sure has as its ultimate goal the achievement of peace throughout the world. In that respect, I do hope that my remarks will contribute in some measure to a better understanding of an issue that is of paramount importance and urgency to all of us.

I am sure that we agree that of all the issues now facing our troubled world, none reflects so urgent and critical a challenge as does the pursuit of peace in the Middle East. That the challenge has reached a critical stage needs no elaboration. For many years now, and especially since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June 1982, we have been witnessing the intensified violence in the Middle East with the wider threat that this unresolved regional conflict poses for the whole world.

The complexities confronting the challenge of peace, must also be addressed. They call for a careful evaluation of the cause and effect process that has brought us to the present explosive situation. It is also essential to stop viewing the issue of the Middle East as a set of separate problems. Any piecemeal policy which attempts to solve one side of the problem and neglects to address the roots from which it stems, is bound to fall short of achieving the wider and vital goal for regional peace in our part of the world.

The basic issue in the Middle East, the issue which has spawned the many tangential conflicts that have dimmed our hopes for peace, is the Palestinian problem. And it is of utmost urgency that this issue be addressed within the context of a comprehensive settlement engaging the participation of all parties involved in the more than 35-year-old Arab-Israeli conflict. All through the last decades, the Palestinians have sought to regain their basic, inalienable right to self-determination on their own soil. Continuously, they have been refused a voice in determining their destiny, and they have been denied "participation in the possible solution of a problem that is basically theirs."

Due to its historic, geo-political and demographic association with the Palestinian people, Jordan has always felt and shared realities of their agonies. We felt it a direct responsibility and duty to take all possible measures to alleviate their suffering, and to give them the opportunity to live in dignity until a just and durable solution to their problem is found that recognises their legitimate rights in their homeland. When in 1950, the Palestinian people on the West Bank expressed their desire to unite with Jordan, a freely elected parliament representing both the state of Jordan and the West Bank ratified the union between both. Article 2 of the parliament decision clearly states that the union did not imply the relinquishment of Arab rights in Palestine and called for their realisation through legitimate means. We believe that those rights can be ensured through a just and comprehensive peaceful settlement.

Throughout the past three decades, Jordan has pursued and sup-

ported every peace initiative that has been proposed to resolve the problem. Jordan's commitment to the cause of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East remains unwavering today as it has always been. I would like to review some major facts which reflect Jordan's commitment to peace.

We all know that the foundation of peace is based on the concept of "territory for peace." U.N. Resolution 242, emphasised the inalienability of the acquisition of territory by war, and called for Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied since 1967 and for the acknowledgement of the right of all states in the area to live in peace within secure and recognised borders. His Majesty King Hussein was, in fact, the chief Arab negotiator in the formulation of that resolution. We were assured then by the U.S. administration of the day that the resolution will be implemented within six months. We were hopeful that Resolution 242 which had the unanimous support of the international community, would open the door for a just and comprehensive peace. Jordan endorsed and supported all efforts aimed at implementing this resolution with its agreed terms: Full withdrawal for a full peace. Such efforts ranged from the jarring mission that began in 1967 and the Roger's initiative of 1969 to Resolution 338 of 1973 adopted by the Security Council after the 1973 war.

Jordan cooperated with all these efforts and gave them its full support. During the seven year period, 1967-1974, Jordan did everything within its power to secure the implementation of Resolution 242 without success due to Israeli refusal to honour its commitments under the resolution, i.e. full withdrawal for full peace.

This period is a significant one in the history of peace in the Middle East. It therefore, warrants special attention and scrutiny throughout Jordan and also Egypt were fully ready to implement Resolution 242 in all its parts.

The PLO was not yet designated as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. Jordan had the exclusive responsibility for the West Bank. Israel never seriously addressed itself to the implementation of Resolution 242. Consequently a historic and unique opportunity for peace was lost and the responsibility for this loss lies squarely with Israel. And Israel shown a different attitude, the region would probably have been enjoying peace for sometime by now.

It is true that the Camp David accords achieved peace between Israel and Egypt. Yet, it is equally true that the accords failed to address the other issues vital for a comprehensive settlement. Immediately after these accords were signed, Jordan sought detailed clarification from the United States on these issues particularly those relating to withdrawal, Arab Jerusalem, settlements and Palestinian rights.

It soon became evident that the accords failed to address these issues. In brief, the accords were faulted not for what they achieved, but for what they failed to achieve. In addition, we in Jordan were surprised by the arbitrary role assigned to us in Camp David, without our knowledge or our participation. Moreover, Israel remained adamant in its determination to continue the process of the gradual absorption of these territories, Israel's own interpretation of the accords, and its actions on the ground in the years since then, have confirmed our

suspicious. We could not become a partner to an agreement which would legalise the annexation of the West Bank, including Arab Jerusalem, and Gaza.

The Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty led to the evacuation of Israeli troops from Sinai, and to the restoration of Egyptian sovereignty over that area, but it has also shifted the strategic balance drastically in Israel's favour, and damaged the chances of a comprehensive settlement in the region. Subsequently, Israel felt free to annex Arab Jerusalem and the Golan Heights and to accelerate its illegal settlement activities in the occupied Arab territories.

In this respect, let me add that the Israeli government has to date expropriated more than 50 per cent of the West Bank and made it available for Israeli settlers. There are now more than 150 settlements and the process continues. Every day more land is seized, more settlements are established or expanded, and demographic changes are imposed in the occupied territories. The daily despair and oppression suffered by the Palestinian people cannot but generate a resistance that will, in desperation at the grim prospects of the future, link itself with the radical elements that have been dangerously trying to dictate the course of events in our region.

Though Jordan elected not to participate in the Camp David process, that did not mean the end of our pursuit in the search for a just and comprehensive peace. On the contrary, Jordan persevered in the search for peace and persisted in its efforts to induce wider acceptance for a peaceful settlement in the Arab World. In 1978, Jordan played an instrumental role at the Baghdad Arab summit, where for the first time, an Arab consensus evolved calling for a peaceful negotiated settlement to the problem of Palestine, based on United Nations resolutions.

This position was articulated and detailed at the Fez summit in September 1982, which coincided with the launching of President Reagan's initiative of Sept. 1. In essence, the Fez declaration is based on the principles contained in the U.N. resolutions, on initiatives presented by several American administrations, and on the European position as stated in the Venice Declaration.

All these plans call for the withdrawal of Israel from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, the right of all states in the region to live in peace and security, and the right of the Palestinians to determine their own future on their national soil. In the weeks that followed, His Majesty King Hussein led an Arab delegation to four of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to inform them of the Arab consensus reached in Fez. His Majesty visited the United States in December of the same year, where he discussed with President Reagan ways to achieve peace in the Middle East.

Jordan was the first Arab country to recognise immediately the positive elements in President Reagan's initiative. We welcomed the president's proposals as a positive and courageous step in the right direction. In particular, we appreciated the president's declaration that the Palestine question was the root cause of the conflict, his reinstatement of the concept of "territory for peace", and his call for a freeze on the Israeli settlements. Israel's response to the president's initiative was outright rejection. It emphasised its rejection by establishing additional settlements in direct challenge to the president's call for a freeze on such settlements.

Despite Israel's negative reaction, Jordan continued her efforts to keep the momentum for peace. We worked and managed to keep the president's initiative

the focus of attention within the context of search for peace in the Arab World. However, Jordan cannot, nor has the exclusive right to enter into any negotiations without the participation of the Palestinians. As we all know, Jordan accepted and respected the Rabat summit decision in 1974, which designated the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Jordan therefore, undertook intensive efforts with the Palestinians to reach a formula through which we could announce our readiness to enter into a peace process based on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories in return for peace. In our dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, we sought an agreement that would govern and regulate the relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. This relationship would express itself, from the moment of its inception, through joint Jordanian-Palestinian actions and decisions, based on the Fez plan, U.N. resolutions, and the principles expressed in the Reagan initiative.

Regrettably, we were unable at that point to reach a formula acceptable to all parties involved in this issue. A lack of flexibility from some quarters, opposition from radical elements in general, Israel's continued occupation of large parts of Lebanon, the establishment of more settlements in the West Bank, and the doubts that the American administration could implement the initiative, hampered our efforts to reach a positive conclusion.

However, despite the absence of an agreement with the PLO on this matter, our dialogue will continue with the hope of coordinating our policies and positions regarding the peace process.

And while the stalemate continues, Israel tightens its grip on the occupied territories in the West Bank, Gaza, Golan Heights and South Lebanon. At the same time, in a first step towards driving the Palestinians of the West Bank across the Jordan River, Israel tries to destabilise Jordan by calling it the Palestinian states. Israel chooses to ignore that fact that historically, politically and legally, Palestine is that territory west of the Jordan River. This was affirmed by the League of Nations in 1922 when it did not include Jordan in the Palestine mandate and gave it a special separate status.

The 1947 United Nations partition plan for Palestine, upon which Israel bases its legitimacy and according to which it was admitted to the United Nations, was very clear and specific regarding the territorial application and the exact location of the two proposed Arab and Jewish states in Palestine proper, i.e. west of the River Jordan.

I would like to touch briefly on the main issues that comprise the elements of a comprehensive settlement. These elements are:

1) Territorial issues, including withdrawal and settlements: Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem is the key element in any settlements, as stipulated in Resolution 242. Israeli settlements in these territories are illegal and violate the legitimate rights of their indigenous population.

2) Peace and security issues: We believe that only a state of peace generates security for all states in the area. Security must not be based on territorial considerations such as acquisition of territory under security pretexts. Nor should security be viewed as the exclusive preoccupation of one party. As a matter of fact, it is Jordan which needs security guarantees, rather than Israel, because of the vast military imbalance in Israel's

favour, and Israel's threat against Jordan.

3) Palestinian rights: The Palestinian people must be able to determine their own future through the exercise of their rights of self-determination under conditions of free choice.

The tragic events we are witnessing in Lebanon now are the result of the lack of progress towards achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. If we do not act now to achieve a just and durable solution to the Palestine problem, the violence in Lebanon could very well engulf the whole area. A state of no peace and no war will inevitably invite a wave of radicalisation that will destabilise the entire region and in effect threaten your own interests.

Yet despite the long saga of missed opportunities, despite the complexities that now tend to obscure the basic issue, we continue to believe, in the structure for peace that still exists. As I said before, this structure is based on

international consensus and legitimacy, and I must repeat, for peace to be enduring, it must be just and comprehensive in concept, in process and in participation. Peace cannot be achieved piecemeal. All attempts to impose separate peace agreements have led only to further deterioration of the situation in the region.

Only a comprehensive approach, based on the principles advocated and supported by international legitimacy, can lead to peace and to the normalisation of relations among the nations in the area. Normal relations cannot be imposed, the doors between nations cannot be tried open by force. Jordan remains committed to the achievement of a just and comprehensive settlement and will continue to do what is within its power to promote the chances for peace. We enlist your support and efforts towards the realisation of this objective.

Thank you."

A last chance for Lebanese to sieze?

By Flora Lewis

BEIRUT — A bright young Lebanese came home last year full of hope that at least, with the Palestinians out of the way, his country could manage its own fate.

"If I knew then what I know now," he says with the warm smile that is the remains of Lebanese resilience, "I wouldn't have come. But I have to stay and chronicle the birth — or the death — of Lebanon."

The mood in Beirut is bleak. The ceasefire is holding so far, and talks are scheduled on a "national reconciliation" plan, but no one pretends optimism. People have not begun to discuss rebuilding their gutted homes, as they did before.

The sense has spread widely that this is the last chance. Perseverance, that may give Lebanon some momentum for a revival, in a distinctly modified form. Otherwise, disintegration will harden into statelets, no more likely to get along than Lebanon's fighting communities do now. But that will not solve anything.

The Middle East has not begun to look for solutions. Once again positions are tilting, alliances are shifting, everyone is probing for the next contest of will.

At the moment Syria has the upper hand, and the United States has moved to recognise that fact, after unwisely trying to exclude the Syrians as Soviet puppets.

The Iran-Iraq war is reaching extreme crisis for the whole Gulf region, and for the Western world. Nobody else wants either side to win.

There are hints that Syria is beginning to quarrel with Iran, which it supported effectively by cutting Iraq's pipeline, and that it might be prepared for warmer relations with its rival in Baghdad.

Saudi Arabia has played a more open, direct role in regional diplomacy than ever before, drawing it into the other Arabs' quarrels to a point it had previously considered risky.

Yasser Arafat's control of what remains of the PLO has been nearly eliminated by Syria. So Mr. Arafat is trying to revive some kind of deal with His Majesty King Hussein, along the lines of the Reagan initiative, to provide him with a new base.

That is the last thing Syria would enjoy, although its wily president, Hafez Al Assad, may envisage establishing a Syrian-

controlled Palestinian ruler in Jordan in King Hussein's place. Mr. Assad never tells anybody what is in the back of his mind.

It would be a grave danger for Israel, worse than the problems it had when the Palestinians ran southern Lebanon. The Israelis are not going to get the "strong independent" (by which they meant: Christian-controlled and allied) Lebanon they set out to establish in last year's war. Even partition would leave Israel with an occupation it cannot afford.

In this peculiar period, when everybody is grouping for new supports to offset new pressures, there are no fixed points on which to base American policy. Every move is linked to other moves, inside Lebanon and out.

Selim El Hoss, the former Lebanese prime minister, says sagely that his country's internal quarrels are so entwined with all the other fights in the region that they cannot be separated. Regardless of intention, the United States is now involved in domestic Lebanese politics because Lebanese politics is directly engaged with all the other disputes.

Switzerland used to be suggested as a model for straightening out this bowl of spaghetti. But the Swiss made order of a mixed-up state divided into nearly self-governing cantons by resolutely staying out of their neighbours' conflicts and by defending their neutrality with a strong army. The Alps and the fact that the Swiss pattern was set long before there were tanks, planes and missiles helped a lot.

Still, the Lebanese are coming to see this as their last chance at nationhood. The idea of neutrality is beginning to appeal. Whether it would appeal enough to end their tragic habit of calling in outsiders to tip the balance in their feuds is something else. Those who are thus tempted worry that the United States would object.

It should not, even though it might be necessary to include the Soviet Union as a guaranteeing power, as the Soviet Union is in Austria.

The balance of forces never stays still in this area. What chances there have been for accommodation keep being lost because one side or another is determined to consolidate battle gains. That happened a year ago when Syria was down. Lebanon's last chance is slim, but if it is lost there will be more losses to come. — The New York Times.

لجنة التحرير

Food: An integral part of global security

ROME — At first glance, 1983 seems an unlikely year in which to be concerned with food shortages. The largest wheat surpluses in history are overflowing silos around the globe. The world's largest cereal producer, the United States of America, has paid farmers to produce less, and an area larger than Italy has been taken out of production. International prices for a number of basic foods rice, wheat, maize, soybeans and edible oils are relatively low.

Yet in spite of this apparent abundance of food, food consumption per head of population in many of the world's poorer countries is falling. Faced by this alarming paradox, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) has chosen to focus on food security as the theme for World Food Day Oct. 16 this year. It is clear that for millions of people a reliable, secure supply of food remains as uncertain now as ever in the past. What is more, it would take only two or three poor grain harvest in a few major production areas to create disastrous shortages of food around the world.

What is food security?

The basic idea behind food security is simple: It is to ensure adequate supplies of food to the world's people at all times irrespective of climate or harvest, social status or income. Achieving this objective involves seeing the problem from two perspectives: The longer term one of ensuring sufficient food production to feed a rapidly expanding world population at prices that people can afford, and the more immediate problem of overcoming emergency shortages in particular countries and areas.

In April this year, Edouard Saouma, FAO's director-general, explained FAO's view. "The ultimate objective of world food security", he said "should be to ensure that all people at all times have both physical and economic access to the basic food they need."

In general, much more progress has been made in meeting the immediate threat of food shortages than in dealing with the underlying causes of inadequate, or unequal, access to supplies. Food aid, reserve stocks and emergency food credit have helped to prevent serious crises over the past decade. Measures to stimulate food production, with the aim of reaching self-sufficiency in countries which are chronically short of food, have been less successful.

World food production

The world's farmers have produced enough to feed everyone adequately in most years since the 1960s. Thirty percent more food is produced today than 10 years ago. Taking the world's population as a whole, per capita food production shows a similarly steady, if less spectacular, increase of around 10 per cent.

Yet FAO estimates that more than 450 million people, or about ten per cent of the world's population, are seriously undernourished. If current trends in food production and population growth continue, FAO predicts that this number will increase by an additional three quarters of a million each month for the next seventeen years to more than 600 million by the year 2000.

Wide variations in production are common within individual countries. Ironically, food shortages are usually most acute in rural areas, where the majority of the world's population, and its farmers, live.

In the 1970s, food production fluctuated widely from year to year in a number of countries, but the majority of countries in the Near East, Asia and Latin America, completed the 1970s with higher per capita food output than a decade before.

Asia has shown the strongest growth in food production. Four low-income countries, accounting for some 40 per cent of world population, have made notable progress toward self-sufficiency in basic foods. India is close to supplying its own cereal needs, while China, Indonesia and the Philippines have lifted rice production to levels which ensure self-sufficiency in most years.

The situation in Africa is less promising. Thirty of the 43 developing countries in the region cannot produce enough food for their populations. Per head, Africans now have 10 per cent less domestically grown food available to them than in the early 1970s. On average, diets in Africa provide six per cent less energy than the minimum required for sustained healthy living.

In general the situation with respect to food production is most serious among the low income countries which must regularly import basic foods. In 1982, 33 out of 69 of the countries experienced a considerable reduction in the per capita supply of cereals. Many of these countries, although not the most populous ones, are in Africa.

Prospects for the low income, food deficit countries are made even more bleak by waning international generosity. Just six years ago, food aid accounted for three in every ten tonnes of cereals imported by these countries. Last year, food aid was less than two tonnes in every ten. Their food import bills have risen five-fold in the decade. High real interest rates have made the cost of borrowing money to pay for these essential foods a crippling burden, especially since many of these countries must also import their supplies of oil.

To make matters worse, the real prices of many agricultural export commodities, which provide developing countries with at least a third of their income, are at a 20 year low.

Paths to greater food security

The task of improving food security is complicated by the fact that it is influenced by factors which are only indirectly linked to food production. For instance, emergency food aid provided to prevent a crisis can, by relieving pressure on a country's treasury, free resources for investment in agricultural and future food production.

Food pricing policies can, according to how they are applied, either stimulate or reduce food production. A major problem has been that policies which provide cheap food in urban centres have often resulted in low prices being paid to farmers, robbing them of any incentive to grow more.

In recent years many countries have acted to establish food stocks as an insurance against calamities. By 1983, 72 countries had established food reserve programmes, 60 of these from the developing world. The farmer-owned reserve in the United States, as well as the large national buffer stocks established by such countries as China, India, Indonesia and Japan, have added greatly to the security of the world's food supply. But, the goal of establishing a global system of coordinated national food reserves has so far eluded the most strenuous efforts of planners.

The problem for the poorer countries is the enormity of the investment required to make food security possible. Improvements to land, irrigation and water management methods, better roads, communications and storage are essential, but costly prerequisites. So too is research and development of farming, forestry and fishing systems. Food delivery and marketing methods also need constant refinement, while somehow the high costs of quality seeds and artificial fertilisers must of which are still imported, must be met from the national exchequer.

As the U.N. agency responsible for food and agriculture, FAO has a major role in helping developing countries to strengthen their agricultural sectors. FAO's regular activities aim to strengthen global food production while special programmes covering emergency relief operations, prevention of food losses and improvement of fertiliser supplies are primarily concerned with immediate food-security problems.

Financial investment in development projects has been greatly aided by the work of FAO's Investment Centre, which has attracted some \$22 billion in funds into agriculture and rural development. Major funding sources are the International Development Agency (the World Bank's low-interest loan arm) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Regional banks and funds financed by oil exporting countries have also stepped up agricultural investment.

One of FAO's more recent major developments has been the establishment of the Global Information and Early Warning Scheme — an information network which monitors the day-to-day state of world food supplies and agriculture. The scheme issues food alerts for nations under serious threat of shortages. In providing these warnings it draws upon data such as rainfall statistics, crop prospects, country-by-country reserve stock levels, international market conditions for staple foods, even shipping availability.

The world's food supply remains seriously insecure, despite widespread efforts and in marked contrast to the apparent abundance in today's international grain supplies. World Food Day offered an opportunity for people everywhere to reflect on the precarious balance between famine and abundance and the continuing scandal of starvation in face of plenty.

Present food aid and emergency reserve targets remain modest when set against the widening food deficits in low income countries. Two million tonnes for the reserve and 18 million tonnes in annual food aid are considered more appropriate quantities to meet real needs.

— FAO feature

Randa Habib's Corner

Bad news travels fast

It is a well known fact that bad news travels fast, but what astonishes me is the pleasure with which some people give you bad news.

In social gatherings, that is a must. There would always be someone to talk about someone else about his health, money, or "heart" problems.

Should any lady or gentleman have health problems, everybody knows: They talk about it, discuss it and even add some extra facts.

Although one is really touched by the problems of his "friends" still one enjoys talking about them.

As to financial problems, this is how they are usually tackled: "God only knows how he made his money, it is only normal for him to be bankrupt now", and the saying "easy come easy go" ends the conversation.

But the most interesting and exciting for some people seems to be the "heart" problems. They adore talking about it.

X is in love with his secretary and has divorced his wife to marry her.

— With four children?

— Well yes dear, men are like that at 50. They want to prove that they are still young.

— Do you remember Y?

A multitude of details on the private life of a "similar" case follows.

— But are you sure that they have divorced?

— Of course we are sure. My neighbour learned it from her cousin who is a close friend of X's wife.

Well this is funny because a friend of mine told me that she had met the couple dining peacefully at a restaurant...

— But clearly it is a pure comedy. They just pretend that there is still harmony between them so that no one knows about their problems. But fortunately everything is known in Amman.

No comment.

Lack of basic services

By Hashem Khreisat
Al Ra'i

A number of "newly-built" schools in Jordan lack basic services like water supplies, electricity and roads. Students going to these schools at the start of the current scholastic year were disappointed to find that these services are nonexistent. These services should have been made available before the start of the school year while construction of the new schools were under way.

The new schools were built because of their urgent need to offer students education, but the absence of such services makes it difficult for the schools to carry out their role and serve the purpose for which they had been established.

The lack of services in schools is a common phenomena in Amman and other towns and villages, as in the case of Sa'id Durra School, which started the current scholastic year at its new building in the Wuhda region of Amman. Government departments that supply water and electricity and build roads are called on to cooperate with the Ministry of Education in providing these basic services. The Ministry of Education itself should pursue efforts for seeing to it that all schools have their needs satisfied so that the educational process can go on unhindered.

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SPORTS

McEnroe suspended for 42 days

SYDNEY (R) — Wimbledon champion John McEnroe has been suspended from tennis for 42 days after being fined \$1,500 for an outburst during his Australian Indoor Championship final win over Henri Leconte of France here on Sunday.

McEnroe beat the 20-year-old Leconte 6-1, 6-4, 7-5 to take title for a fourth successive year and keep intact a record of never having lost a set in singles play in the championship.

The 24-year-old world number one was fined after receiving a code of conduct warning for abuse of an official. McEnroe said he would not appeal against the penalty.

The fine took the American's total fines this year to \$8,300, \$800 over the limit set by the Men's International Professional Tennis Council, incurring automatic suspension.

The suspension was the second of the American's career. Just over three years ago, he was banned from play for three weeks. Tournament referee Bill Gilmour imposed the fine after conferring with officials after the match.

In an official report, Gilmour said McEnroe had said to let-coach judge Barry Hill: "How many imaginary let calls are you going to make, you fat turd?"

McEnroe later questioned the severity of the fine imposed, saying: "If I had known that was

going to happen, I would have really let him have it... I think I have said a lot worse things and gotten away when I felt I deserved to be penalised."

McEnroe, who has been walking a suspension tightrope since the U.S. Open early last month, denied he had made the remark intentionally.

"If I had wanted it to happen, I would not have done it during the singles because it was important to win the title."

"There are a number of ways I could have done it (intentionally) — during the doubles match or by not turning up to a press conference, which would entail a \$1,000 fine," he said.

McEnroe will miss a tournament at Stockholm in two weeks' time but, if he does not play in any WCT or exhibition tournaments, the 42-day suspension will be halved.

Either way he will be able to compete in the Australian Open which starts at Kooyong on November 28.

McEnroe flew out of Sydney for New York immediately after he and compatriot Peter Rennett lost the indoor doubles final to Aus-

tralia's Mark Edmondson and American Sherwood Stewart.

McEnroe's outburst came after the fifth game of the second set with Leconte holding a 3-2 lead. As the American walked back to his chair he turned to Hill and uttered the remark. Umpire Ian Baise immediately announced a code violation.

Another incident occurred in the second game of the third set when Baise gave McEnroe a 15-second time warning while he was serving. Leconte broke the serve to take a 2-0 lead.

McEnroe approached Baise, who called Gilmour and Grand Prix supervisor Keith Johnson on to the court. Gilmour said later McEnroe had questioned the officials' competence.

Leconte, 20, could not put the same pressure on McEnroe that had earned him a quarter-final win over Ivan Lendl.

He was broke in the fourth and sixth games of the first set, in the ninth game of the second and in the third, seventh and 11th games of the final set.

"His mind floats in and out," McEnroe said of his talented but erratic opponent.

But the French youngster did become only the second player in this tournament to take a service game off the American.

McEnroe collected \$40,000 for winning the singles, while Leconte won \$20,000.

World Champion Piquet flies home after all-night celebrations

KYALAMI, South Africa (R) — Newly-crowned world motor racing champion Nelson Piquet flew home to Monte Carlo on Sunday after celebrating his triumph by getting drunk for the first time in his life at an all-night party.

The 31-year-old Brazilian, who regained the title he also won in 1981 by finishing third in Saturday's South African Grand Prix, had promised his Brabham mechanics he would get drunk if he won — and that he duly did.

"He got more than drunk," said Brabham team manager Herbie Blash. "I've known him five years and I'd never seen him have a drink before last night."

What started as a sedate celebration dinner turned into an uproarious party which ended at dawn with most of the revellers cooling off in a hotel swimming pool.

"We didn't throw Nelson in — with all that drink he wouldn't have floated," Blash joked.

One man who did get wet was Piquet's Brabham team-mate Riccardo Patrese of Italy, who, as well as winning the race, took a large slice of the credit for ensuring the Brazilian won the title.

Patrese kept Piquet's main rivals at bay for three-quarters of the race as the Brazilian built up a commanding lead on the sweeping

Kyalami track.

The Italian took over in front as Piquet deliberately eased off in the knowledge that fourth place would be sufficient after Frenchmen Alain Prost and Rene Arnoux dropped out.

Piquet ultimately finished third to end the season with 59 points, two ahead of Renault number one Prost and 10 in front of Arnoux, Ferrari's main hope for the title this season.

Prost, who led the title chase until Saturday morning, accepted defeat with good grace: "We lost the championship to an exceptional car, an exceptional engine and an exceptional driver. There is no shame."

The victory was Patrese's second in Grand Prix racing and his cool, refined display will have done much to dispel the 'wild man' image he has lived with through much of his career.

While it appeared Piquet might have developed problems as he dropped back, the champion said afterwards that nothing was amiss.

"I always had the race under control," said Piquet. "I went as quick as I could at first, but when I saw Prost was out I started to take it easy."

Apart from Patrese's assistance, Piquet must also thank the skill of his pit crew who carried out his routine refuelling stop in a lightning 9.2 seconds.

Brabham's south African-born designer Gordon Murray was thrilled to win the title in front of a huge home crowd, even though it was Ferrari which carried off the 1983 Constructors' Championship ahead of Renault and Brabham.

All three teams were powered by turbocharged engines, which won 12 of the 15 championship races this year. It was the first world title for turbo engines and their dominance appears to mark the demise of the Cosworth V8 motor which has dominated the Grand Prix circuit for 15 years.

Apart from Patrese, the best performances came from Alfa Romeo's Italian driver Andrea de Cesaris, who overtook Piquet in the final stages to complete an Italian one-two, and veteran Austrian Niki Lauda.

Lauda, himself a double world champion, stormed through from 10th on the first lap into second place before his engine packed up on the 72nd lap with just five laps to go.

But his performance suggests things are starting to come right for the McLaren-Porsche team and the Austrian will undoubtedly mount a strong challenge next year.

Another driver to throw down the gauntlet for 1984 was last year's champion Keke Rosberg.

Navratilova, Shriver meet in final

TARPON SPRINGS, Florida (R) — Top seed Martina Navratilova and second-seeded Pam Shriver scored straight-set victories Saturday to advance to the finals of a \$150,000 women's tennis tournament at the Innisbrook resort.

Navratilova defeated third-seeded Zina Garrison 6-3, 6-2 while Shriver beat fourth-seeded Kathy Rinaldi 6-3, 6-3 in the all-American semi-finals.

The winner will receive \$28,000 with \$14,000 going to the runner-up.

Navratilova, 26, had to win twice on Saturday to go through

against Shriver, her doubles partner. Before beating Garrison, she eliminated Bonnie Gadusek of the U.S. 7-5, 6-3 in a quarter-final postponed from Friday because of rain.

The two victories boosted Navratilova's winning streak to 35 straight matches since losing at the French Open. Her singles record for the year stands at 71-1.

Shriver, who has won only three of 15 matches against Navratilova, chose to look on the bright side. "The nice part is that the pressure is on her," the 21-year-old Shriver said.

Notts Forest defeats County

LONDON (R) — England under-21 striker Justin Fashanu and Notts County team-mate David Hunt were sent off in a 3-1 defeat by city rivals Nottingham Forest in the only English first division soccer match on Sunday.

Fashanu, who joined County from Forest last season, was given his marching orders in the 56th minute after fiercely disputing a linesman's decision. Hunt followed one minute from the end after aiming a kick at Forest midfielder Stephen Hodges.

Ian Wallace opened the scoring for Forest in the eighth minute but County equalised within a minute after Fashanu was fouled in the penalty by Colin Todd. Trevor Christie scored from the penalty spot. Ian Boyer and Peter Daventport completed the scoring for Forest in the first half.

Soviet Solodoukhin adds judo world crown to his list

MOSCOW (R) — Olympic champion Nikolai Solodoukhin added the world crown to his list of achievements when he won the featherweight title at the World Judo Championships in Moscow Saturday.

But another Olympic gold medalist, Italian Ezio Gamba, failed to achieve the double when he was convincingly beaten by Japanese Hidetoshi Nakanishi in the lightweight final.

Solodoukhin and Yoshiyuki Matsuo of Japan produced a nerve-jangling final. For six minutes there was nothing to choose

between them but in the final 60 seconds the Olympic champion launched a series of attacks which earned him a unanimous decision.

Nakanishi, in contrast, won the gold medal with ease. It was clear from the start he had the speed to trouble Gamba and after 90 seconds he flashed under the Italian's arms and earned five points by throwing him with his left shoulder for a yuko.

When Gamba tried the same ploy, Nakanishi countered immediately and threw the Italian to the ground where he tied him up in an unmovable hold-down.

Top squash seeds have easy 2nd round run

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (R) — The top four seeds Pakistan, England, Australia and Egypt coasted through their first matches in the second stage of the World Team Squash Championships here on Sunday.

None of the four dropped a rubber in a day of predictable results.

Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan and the United States are in Group 'A' of the intermediate pool section which began Sunday, while England, Sweden, Egypt and Canada are in Group 'B'. The top two from each group advance to Wednesday's semifinals.

The other nations, in Group 'C' and 'D', are playing classification rounds.

England's win over sixth-seeded Sweden was highlighted by the performance of the world number three Pakistan-born Hiddy Jahan, who crushed the Swedish number one, Lars Kvint, for the loss of only 10 points.

Top seeds Pakistan again underlined their mastery with a 3-0 win over the United States, seeded seventh. World champion Jahangir Khan conceded only seven points to Mark Talbot, Qamar Zaman dropped the same number, to Keaton Jernigan while Maqsood Ahmed gave away only one point to John Nimick.

In Monday's second round, the U.S. play Australia, New Zealand play Pakistan, England meet Canada and Egypt play Sweden.

Amman Little League

Game results - Oct. 14

Totals		Blue 4	
Red 1		Blue 4	
Juniors		International Traders 2	
Foxboro 0		Telcom 2	
American Express 2		Intercon 0	
Ericsson 4		Royal Falcons 0	
Abaha 0			
Mids		Grindlays 2	
Arab Wings 1		Astra 1	
ALICO 3		Jordan Express 2	
AIK 2		Volvo 4	
Al Ahliyah 0			
Seniors - (Oct. 8 scores)		Holiday Inn 0	
Marriott 2		Chase Manhattan 0	
Cairo Amman 3			

Team standings

Juniors	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
1. Int'l Traders	5	4	0	1	14	0	9
2. Ericsson	5	3	0	2	6	0	8
3. Telcom	5	2	1	2	9	5	6
4. Abaha	5	1	0	4	3	1	6
5. American Express	5	2	2	1	5	6	5
6. Royal Falcons	5	1	2	2	1	4	4
7. Foxboro	5	1	3	1	3	8	3
8. Intercon	5	0	5	0	1	18	0
Mids	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
1. AIK	5	3	0	2	8	5	8
2. ALICO	5	3	1	1	13	3	7
3. Volvo	5	3	1	1	10	7	7
4. Jordan Express	5	2	2	1	11	7	5
5. Arab Wings	5	1	2	2	9	6	4
6. Grindlays	5	2	3	0	4	8	4
7. Astra	5	1	3	1	3	9	3
8. Al Ahliyah	5	1	4	0	5	17	2
Seniors	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
1. Marriott	5	5	0	0	12	2	10
2. Holiday Inn	5	3	2	0	10	4	6
3. Cairo Amman	5	2	3	0	7	8	4
4. Chase	5	0	5	0	0	15	0

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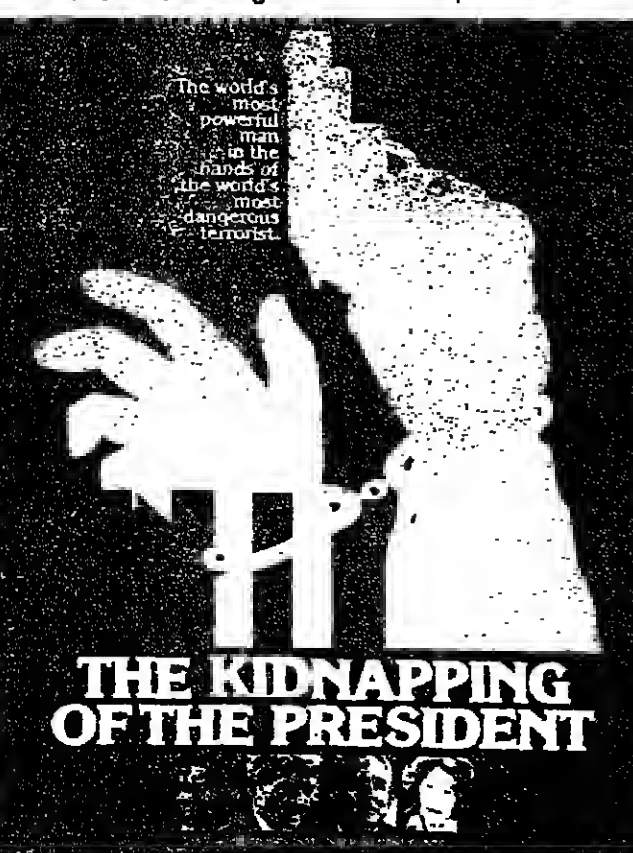
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E.C.'s cash strain may stay until '85

ATHENS (R) — The European Community's (E.C.) cash crisis will not ease for a year or two even if agreement is reached on reforming its crumbling finances at the 10-nation summit here in December, diplomats said.

But prospects did not look bright for a deal before the end of the year as senior ministers last week ended three days of intensive discussion on a reform package.

Diplomats said they remained deeply split over two biggest problems — how to curb runaway farm spending and how to share out community costs more fairly.

A decision by the executive commission to order a 10-day suspension of some farm payments underlined fears that mounting farm subsidies are driving the group towards bankruptcy.

Commission President Gaston Thon described the move as a precautionary one as funds dried up.

Diplomats said ministers were virtually unanimous in seeing the need for tighter controls on farm spending, which is due to top \$13 billion this year.

The ministers want to reduce dairy surpluses, which drain away

more than a third of farm funds. But they are divided over whether this should be done through a system of quotas and levies or by a drastic cut in the milk price.

There is no dispute over the need to bring cereals prices gradually into line with lower U.S. prices.

But France insists that to compensate cereals farmers this should be coupled with tight restrictions on some agricultural imports, a proposal that has raised a storm of protest from the U.S. and other trading partners.

The ministers were in favour of a reformed system of border taxes to protect farmers from currency fluctuations.

But West Germany refused to consider dismantling the so-called Monetary Compensatory Amounts (MCAs), which its finance minister said would lead to an unacceptable 10 per cent fall in German farmers' incomes.

A related issue was the need for a fairer distribution of financial burdens within the economy, dramatised in the past by rows over British demands for refunds because of the imbalance in community spending, in favour of farm-based economies.

Official says Brazil will pay off debt arrears by year end

BAHRAIN (R) — Brazil's central bank governor, on a world tour to persuade bankers to accept a rescheduling package for the country's 1984 debts, said Brazil would be able to pay off arrears on its debt by the end of this year.

Mr. Afonso Celso Pastore told Reuters he had no indication that Brazil would need a new loan to eradicate the arrears by the year-end as some bankers have suggested.

"There has been some confusion over bridging finance," he said.

"We have some arrears in payments, but so far I've no indication that we need bridging finance," he added.

Bankers estimate Brazilian payments arrears at about \$3 billion, but Mr. Celso Pastore said Brazil would be able to arrange loan repayments so that it was up to date by the end of 1983.

Brazil is the third world's largest borrower, with foreign debts estimated at \$90 billion.

Mr. Celso Pastore, scheduled to leave Bahrain Sunday for London,

described his talks with bankers in the United States, Canada, Japan and Bahrain as constructive.

The rescheduling package, forged recently between a coordinating committee of about 60 banks and the International Monetary Fund, calls for a new loan of \$5.5 billion and the stretching out over nine years of Brazil's expected 1984 debt repayments of \$5.5 billion.

Some bankers have said the package would set an important precedent because of the concessions banks would be making to Brazil in the rescheduling.

It envisages a nine-year repayment period, one year longer than the 1983 rescheduling arrangement, and a five-year grace period instead of 2½ years in the 1983 agreement.

Interest charges have also been reduced to two percentage points over London Inter Bank Offered Rates (LIBOR) from 2½ points in the 1983 package and bank commission fees have been reduced to one per cent from 1½ per cent last year.

Mr. Celso Pastore, who dismissed suggestions that the proposed package would set a precedent, said bankers had reacted

well to the extension of maturities and the longer grace period.

Without these extensions, he said there would have been a bunching of repayments in 1987 and 1988.

Brazil has about 800 creditor banks, but only about 300 are owed significant amounts.

Some 170 banks participated in the new loan that was part of the 1983 rescheduling package.

Kuwait cuts LPG prices

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has cut its selling price for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) for the third time in three months to match recent Saudi Arabian cuts, oil ministry officials said Sunday.

The officials said Kuwait had lowered LPG prices for propane to \$225 a tonne and for butane to \$250 a tonne, both from \$260 and effective from Oct. 1.

They said the cut was "in uniformity with pricing policies in the Gulf states," Saudi Arabia told customers earlier this month it would reduce its prices to the same level, also effective Oct. 1.

In August, Kuwait lowered the price of both propane and butane to \$270 a tonne from \$283 and last month it reduced the price of both to \$260 a tonne. On both occasions, the new prices were in line with those charged by other Gulf states, notably Saudi Arabia.

Most liquefied gas in the Gulf is sold to Japan and the cuts were made at the request of the Japanese importers, officials said.

How the bubble burst for Atari and Mattel

NEW YORK — Little fun is to be had these days in making electronic games.

In swift succession, the two U.S. companies which virtually created the market, and built the industry to a billion dollar scale, have been knocked off their pedestals.

It will take a long time for them to pick up the pieces.

The duo — Atari and Mattel — have announced aggregate losses of \$557.2 million in their home electronics divisions over the last six months.

Yet only a year ago they were both riding on the crest of what appeared to be a very big and unstoppable wave.

Atari seemed to have money to burn.

"When the stock was near \$60, nobody complained that the company had style," says Mr. Steven Ross, chairman of Atari's parent, Warner Communications, explaining the group's lavish entertainment budget. "At around \$20, people start complaining."

Growth for both of them had been staggering.

Atari, bought by Warner for a song seven years ago, had subsequently shot to international recognition, while racing ahead to generate half the group's sales and

around 60 per cent of operating profits of \$522 million in 1982.

At Mattel, the transformation, had been just as astonishing.

Known already as the creator of the Barbie Doll, one of the world's most successful toys of its era, Mattel propelled the electronics division ahead so rapidly that it had grown in the space of three years from about 10 per cent of profits to half.

Operating profits in the division jumped from \$7.3 million in 1981 to \$67 million in the year to January 1983, carrying group net earnings up from \$7.9 million to \$42.4 million.

Disaster struck with the force and speed of a cyclone.

Given the record of the electronics industry for such swift and remorseless reversals, it perhaps ought not to have surprised anyone. But many shareholders appear to have been caught completely unawares.

Warner Communications share price lost almost 40 per cent last December as Atari's problems sank in. Mattel's, which had risen to \$31½ towards the end of last year, plunged in the spring, and now stands at \$6½.

There is no overwhelming consensus on how things went so

wrong.

Analysts, many caught out as badly as the man in the street who believed he was investing in effortless 20 per cent annual growth, cite a number of factors.

Loose management: The key activities expanded so fast that they outgrew the management systems set up to control them. Some credence is given to this view by the wholesale bloodletting and reorganisation that has followed the collapses.

Weak product strategy: Management became so complacent after the relatively indiscriminate response of the market to early products that they put insufficient development effort into the new range of games.

Costs: U.S. wage rates became increasingly difficult to bear as soon as the competition intensified, with some rival products being made in the Far East.

The rate of growth began to slacken about a year ago.

No adequate figures on the electronics games market exist, but the victims of the collapse have all been caught with enormous stocks which they have found impossible to liquidate quickly, and some of which, indeed, they may be stuck with for ever.

Apart from the market flattening out, however, it also appears to be moving in a different direction, with electronic games becoming much more a part of the home computer industry.

The games manufacturers saw this themselves as they began to move into home computers, but

some of the home computer companies have been quicker to grasp the opportunities.

Even without the robust American business ethic, which teaches that market disasters must be met ruthlessly and head on, the scale of the slump would have called for radical action.

Expectations have not been disappointed.

Management heads have rolled, entire factories wiped out, and enormous write-offs pushed purgatively through the balance sheets.

Atari's solution has been a combination of bloodletting and blood transfusion.

After the taking on of 2,500 workers in the U.S. in 1982, some 1,600 were made redundant in the first half of this year, and some manufacturing was transferred to Hong Kong and Taiwan.

This was followed by a change at the very top, when one of the U.S.'s most celebrated marketing specialists, Mr. James Morgan, from the Philip Morris Tobacco Company, was brought in and given a free hand as chief executive.

He has lost little time since he arrived at the beginning of last month, immediately shunning aside some senior executives, and moving to impose some order on the group's sprawling production and management structure.

What the talk of development means in precise product terms is anyone's guess.

There is speculation, for example, that the group will abandon

its Atari project aimed at a computer-based telephone. But Atari is still clearly determined to stick in the video games business, and Warner has a sufficiently strong balance sheet to see the next cycle of development through.

Even after accounting for a first half loss of \$302 million — consumer electronics ran up an operating deficit of \$356 million — its common equity still stands at \$1 billion.

For Mattel, however, it is a very different matter.

Never as big as Atari, which was once credited with 80 per cent of the U.S. electronic games market and still has around 40 per cent, it has given little indication of having the strength or desire to set through a whole new generation of development.

Its market share is reckoned to have slumped from around 15 per cent to 10 per cent, and the losses and write-offs have played havoc with its balance sheet.

By the end of June, as half-year losses soared to \$211 million, its equity had been reduced in 12 months from \$261 million to \$81 million, while short-term debt had shot up from \$300 million to \$411 million.

A longer-term agreement is now being worked out with the banks, which have agreed to support the group until mid-1985, on the strength of the security offered by certain subsidiary assets and accounts receivable.

Mattel included a \$95 million

provision against cuts and stock write-offs in the first half, so there ought not to be a great deal more to come.

Even so, the losses have sharply reduced its room for manoeuvre.

With cash flowing out of the company and the interest burden due to go up, it scarcely has the financial resources to push into the kind of development which would keep it in the forefront of a business which is extremely cash hungry.

These constraints are reflected in the severity of the pruning it has undertaken.

One third — 650 — of its white-collar workers have been laid off, the second generation game, Intellivision II, abandoned and the Aquarius home computer plan severely trimmed back. It will continue to supply new hardware and software products for Intellivision I, but this is now two years old, and it is difficult to see it surviving indefinitely.

The net result of this slimming course, the company admits, will be to reduce the electronics activities to a smaller size than the traditional toy-making.

The old heart of the company, which has gone through its own crises in the past, is still beating strongly. In the first half it raised sales by 13 per cent and achieved record operating profits of \$42 million.

It looks as though Mattel will have to fall back on this to see it through the new crisis, Barbie Doll to the rescue. — Financial Times.

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The best means by which you can utilize today to advantage is to continue to go after the long-range plans that activate you and especially early in the morning.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Avoid going off on a tangent and cooperate with an older partner and get much accomplished; get fine results.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Handle work at hand efficiently and ethically and don't get upset because your mate may be acting up.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Proven entertainment is best and don't fall for the line of one who may be trying to con you in some way, and will talk fast.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Control your temper at work and avoid any confrontations or there is much trouble.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Work is your best daytime bet since amusements would not turn out very well for you. The evening is good to take in a movie.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Conditions at your abode may be disturbing, but take it easy and see what can be done about improving them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You can attain some personal goal that means much to you, but be sure you drive carefully. Go slowly today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You can arrange private affairs as you like, but make no radical changes where business set-up is concerned.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get data you need from friends and don't simply rely on your own efforts or hunches. Your instincts are off right now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A private anxiety could deter you in business affairs you want to handle if you permit but a bigwig can assist you later.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A new contact can be made into a friend by showing you like that person, but avoid one who talks incessantly and gets on your nerves.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Steer clear of a higher-up who can make impossible demands and be with a person in business who is reasonable and kind.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... He or she will be one of those delightful young persons who is apt to make radical changes with very little forethought. Teach early to think first and then act to avoid changing horses in midstream, as it were.

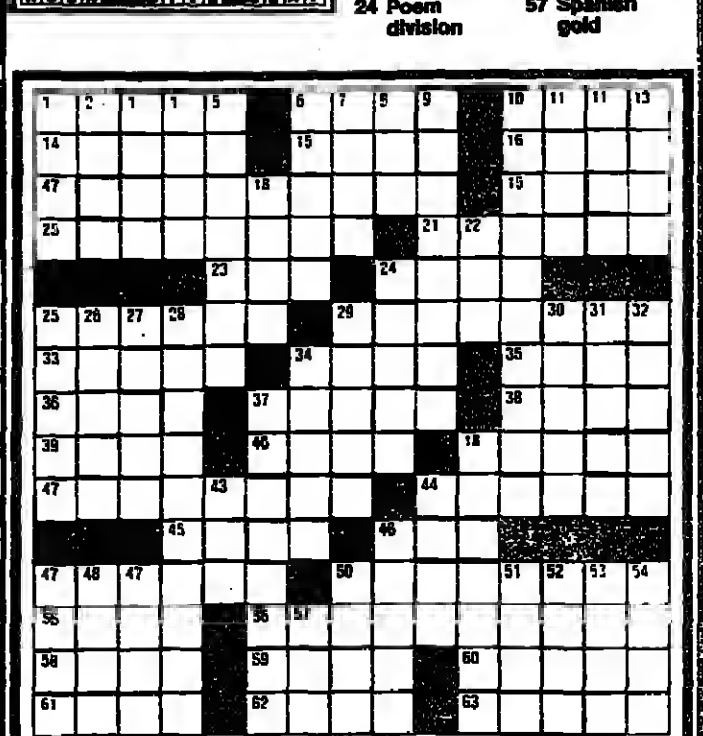
"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

THE Daily Crossword by Juna J. Boril

ACROSS	33 Bib	50 Aardvark	25 American Indian
1 Directly	34 Judge's bench	55 Encircle	26 Verol
6 Attired	35 Church section	58 Words to live by	27 Unseasoned
10 Ticket receipts	36 Lively dance	59 Behold: Lat.	28 Acquaintance
14 Russian cooperative	37 Cream	60 Electrical inventor	29 Greet, as a hero
15 Mata —	38 Nibble persistently	61 Large mammal	30 Tropical town
16 August	39 Angered	62 Spoils	31 Nautical ridge
17 Fairy tale girl	40 — tandere	63 Glacial	32 Small bird
19 Lively tune	41 Trick	DOWN	34 Burgeon
20 Agent	42 Mexican outlaws	1 Herb	37 Imperil
21 Walk unsteadily	43 Oxygenate	2 School dance	41 Relaxation of world tensions
23 Support for rally	44 Islamic priest	3 Gudrun's husband	43 "Yankie Doodle Dandy"
24 Dogie	46 Craft	4 Rorem and Beatty	44 Comedian Johnson
25 Connected with tenors	47 Heavy shoe	5 Sparkle	45 S.A. mountain range
29 Disability		6 Task	47 Engendered
		7 Like some lingers	48 Saka
		8 Clumsy boat	49 Single time
		9 Milaaga	50 Landed
		10 James Bond movie	51 God of war
		11 Surrounded by	52 Boar's weapon
		12 Ralate	53 French pronoun
		13 Heraldic term	54 Ralate
		18 Placed	57 Spanish gold
		22 Ogylgan	
		24 Poem division	

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

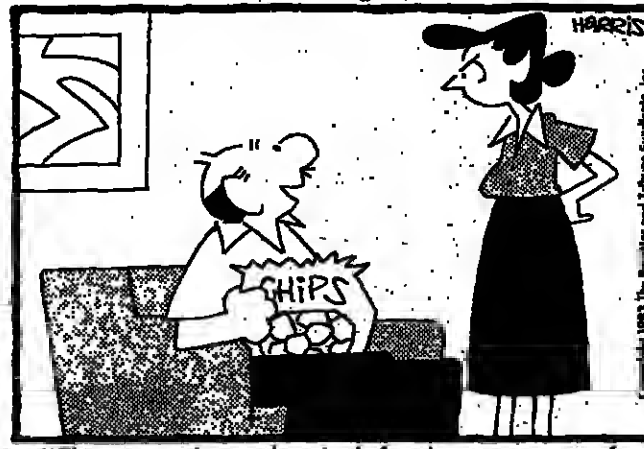
ACROSS	DOWN
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THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"The money I spend on junk food pays someone's salary! Gluttony is my patriotic duty!"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GORAC

SCUFO

THOUPS

OTHPRY



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: YACHT OPERA INWARD ASSAIL

Answer: This musical composition "Involves" harps at first — "RHAPSODY"

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Kissinger issues veiled threat in Nicaragua

MANAGUA (R) — President Reagan's special commission on Central America concluded a whirlwind tour of the region with a cool reception from Nicaragua which accused the United States of waging open war against it.

As the commission, headed by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger boarded a plane for Washington, Nicaraguan junta leader Daniel Ortega said the United States was an obstacle to peace in Central America.

"Nicaragua finds that the present U.S. government has declared war on it," Mr. Ortega told a news conference after meeting Dr. Kissinger. No details of their talks were revealed.

He blamed the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) for rebel attacks on Nicaraguan fuel installations which, together with an announcement by the U.S. Exxon oil company that it would no longer charter tankers for deliveries to Nicaragua, have plunged Nicaragua into severe economic crisis.

The United States arms and directs rebels of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FON) in their war against leftist Nicaragua, viewed by the Reagan administration as the centre of regional conflicts.

The New York Times meanwhile reported that Reagan administration officials had said the CIA recommended and helped plan rebel attacks against the oil installations and other industrial targets in Nicaragua.

The newspaper quoted officials as saying a decision was taken by the CIA over the summer that at-

acks against industrial and transportation targets inside Nicaragua would be an effective way of hurting the government here.

The paper's report could not be immediately confirmed.

Shortly before Mr. Ortega spoke, Dr. Kissinger told reporters: "I hope that we in the United States do not have to choose between peace and democracy."

Government officials here interpreted the comment as a clear warning that Washington would continue to back the rebels if Nicaragua did not adopt a model of democracy proposed by the United States.

The bipartisan fact-finding team received none of the red carpet treatment here offered in other Central American countries eager for increased U.S. aid.

The 14-man panel began its seven-day tour in Panama and Costa Rica, two countries so far spared the violence gripping much of Central America but which have serious economic problems.

In Costa Rica, Vice President Alberto Fall called on the United States to pay \$1 billion a year for the next 10 years to keep his country's democracy safe.

In El Salvador, the commission was greeted by an upsurge in violence by rightist death squads and leftist rebels fighting the U.S.-backed government.

Dr. Kissinger described El Salvador as being "on the front-line in the struggle for freedom."

In Guatemala, the commission heard of the need for increased military assistance to fight leftist guerrillas, a plea taken up by Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova who called for a strengthening of defences.

Dr. Kissinger said when he returned to Washington that the commission plans to meet leaders of rebels in El Salvador as well as Nicaragua.

Dr. Kissinger said no time had been set for the meetings but "in principle we will meet with both Salvadoran and Nicaraguan dissidents."

Asked if he would meet El Salvadoran rebel leader Guillermo Ungo when Mr. Ungo comes to Washington on Thursday and Friday, Dr. Kissinger said that would depend on the commission's schedule.

Central America "is an area in crisis but also an area with great hope," Dr. Kissinger said in a brief airport statement.

"We're coming back with confidence that we will make a united contribution to the solution of some of these problems."

Asked if he had said in Managua that he hoped the United States did not have to choose between peace and democracy, Dr. Kissinger replied:

"No, I said the United States does not accept the proposition that it must accept a choice between peace and democracy, that we can have both."

Grenadan premier reported detained

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada (R) — Grenada's leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop has been reported under house arrest and there was no word on who was in charge of the Caribbean island's government.

State-owned Radio Free Grenada said Saturday night people organising demonstrations had been detained and the armed forces had issued a warning that they would take action against anyone causing disturbances.

The Caribbean News Agency (CANA) reported that Grenada's ambassador to Cuba, Maj. Liam Cornwall, said Mr. Bishop had failed to accept and implement decisions of the ruling New Jewel movement and the government.

"No man can be above rule, no man can be above the majority," Maj. Cornwall was quoted as saying.

CANA said Kenrick Radix, a member of Mr. Bishop's cabinet, told a crowd of demonstrators seeking information Saturday about the prime minister that he had been detained since Thursday.

Later, Radio Free Grenada said Mr. Radix, minister of agriculture and industrial development, had resigned from the government on Thursday.

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), said a suggestion that the demonstrators should march to the prime minister's residence seemed to have been abandoned after Mr. Radix said they needed to mobilise more people.

According to the radio, Mr. Radix had earlier told the crowd nobody should go to work Sunday or send their children to school. He then led the demonstrators around the capital ordering businesses to close.

Five foreign journalists were sent out of Grenada Saturday after being told by immigration officials that the situation in the country was an internal matter.

CANA said that Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard had resigned on Friday to refuse "vicious rumours" that he had tried to unsettle and kill Mr. Bishop in a move to carry the government further to the left.

Mr. Radix said he had warned government colleagues since last year that Coard was seeking to oust Mr. Bishop.

Mr. Bishop, a 39-year-old British educated lawyer, had become a friend of Cuba's Fidel Castro and striven to convert the island of 115,000 into a socialist state.

Three reporters and two photographers covering the situation in Grenada were sent out of the country Saturday and told they could return when things calmed down.

Informed sources said security forces picked up the journalists while they were following a demonstration of about 300 people demanding the release of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

The journalists were from the Caribbean news agency, a Barbadian photographer and the U.S. news agencies, Associated Press and United Press International (UPI).

The sources said the security forces seized tape recorders and film. The journalists were taken to their hotels to pick up belongings, then driven to the airport.

Book says Soviet might is part bluff

LONDON (R) — Fake wooden anti-aircraft missiles and a tank gun that swallows the gunner's leg are among the lesser known aspects of the awesome Soviet military machine, according to a new book.

The abiding Soviet military principle is that appearance is more important than substance, author Andrew Cockburn says. Some units spent the whole year getting ready for the annual Red Square parade, but the Red Army relies heavily on often drunken and half-trained conscripts.

"The Threat — Inside the Soviet Military Machine," published Sunday, challenges current notions about the military strength of the Soviet Union and says these are fostered by U.S. officers seeking larger funds to buy ever more sophisticated weapons.

Mr. Cockburn, a New York-based television documentary maker, drew his material partly from interviews with Russian emigrants living in the United States who served in the Soviet forces either as conscripts or officers.

They gave similar accounts of endemic drunkenness and wholesale theft of vital equipment. Mr. Cockburn says, mentioning sales of fur-lined tank helmets to motorists as one typical example.

Wooden SAM missiles

One emigrant told Mr. Cockburn he guarded a battery of wooden SAM anti-aircraft missiles designed to give an inflated impression of the strength of defences.

Another former conscript said that for every aircraft at the air force base where he served that was combat-ready there were one or two others that could not fly. The Soviets had to keep large numbers of tanks and planes in reserve to make up for constant breakdowns.

The book says that the widely deployed T-64 tank has an automatic grab loader that sometimes snatches the gunner's leg or arm and tried to stuff it into the breach — jokingly said to be how the Red Army choir gets its soprano.

Cockburn says that the 1968 Warsaw Pact entry into Czechoslovakia, which impressed Western officers, was in fact a sham. "Units got lost, armoured units ran out of fuel, troops ran out of food."

Maps were treated as state secrets and ordinary soldiers were not taught to read maps.

British soldier killed in Londonderry

LONDONDERRY, Northern Ireland (R) — A British army patrol was ambushed by a bomb blast and rifle fire as it hurriedly passed a Londonderry cemetery Saturday night and an army spokesman said one soldier was killed.

A second soldier was wounded but the army said his injuries were not serious. The ambush was presumed to be the work of Republican guerrillas fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland, official sources said.

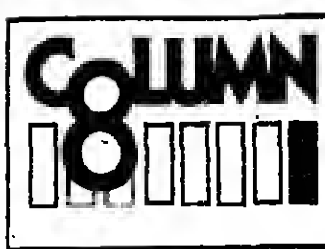
During the 17 conversations reported so far, she has also given him a variety of instructions, including the time and date of her next appearance and ranging from requests for prayer to an appeal to nuns to wear longer habits.

Poblete has relayed orders to the crowds to pray, stare at the sun, hand him their rosaries and follow him on long processions. Witnesses say he has run hundreds of metres looking at the sky without stumbling on the rough ground.

One newspaper quoted an optician as saying that anyone who told people to stare at the sun with the naked eye should be locked up and there have been several reports of eye damage.

Sociologists and psychiatrists have also freely given expert opinions, usually sceptical. "People go there to take part in the emotion of the spectacle," sociologist Jaime Munoz told one newspaper. "It is evident that the boredom of daily life has something to do with it."

The excitement, however, may soon be over. Apart from Archbishop de Borja's reservations, newspapers have reported that an arrest warrant has been issued for Poblete for having abandoned the rehabilitation centre in Villa Alemana where he was sent two years ago as a vagrant.



Britain forgives former mutineer

LONDON (R) — The ashes of a former mutineer who spent 50 years of voluntary exile in the Soviet Union have been scattered at sea by the British navy in a gesture of good grace. It thereby granted the dying wish of one-time able seaman Len Wincott, one of the leaders of a 1931 revolt that halted Britain's powerful Atlantic fleet. The mutiny, known as the Invergordon incident, prevented ships leaving the port in northern Scotland for 48 hours in a depression-era protest against plans for sharp pay cuts. The cuts were later modified. Wincott, 75, died in the Soviet Union in January this year. His Russian widow, Lena, a naval chaplain, a navy officer and friends went out on a navy tender to commit to the sea the ashes of a man discharged 52 years ago because his services were "no longer required."

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet archaeologists have unearthed what they believe to be the oldest image of a human face ever found — the likeness of a girl carved from a mammoth tusk. TASS news agency reported. The miniature figurine belonging to the Cromagnon people, a stone-age race which existed 40,000 years ago, was found at the Kostenki archaeological site in Central Russia. TASS said, Nikolai Praslov, leader of the team which made the find, described it as a "stone-age Venus".

'Hitler's admiral was British spy'

LONDON (R) — Nazi Germany's spy chief, Adm. Wilhelm Canaris, spied for Britain during World War II, British newspapers said Sunday. The Sunday Times and the Mail on Sunday both carried reports based on a book about British intelligence scheduled for publication later this month. The book, called "MI-6 1919-1945", is by Nigel West, author of several well-informed works about Britain's secret services. He says that in 1940 Adm. Canaris passed details of Hitler's plan to invade the Soviet Union and continued to supply secret information to the British for much of the war.

China denies killing Tibetan monks

PEKING (A.P.) — A leading Chinese magazine has denied accusations by Tibetan dissidents and followers of the Dalai Lama that six men who were executed last month were venerated lama and two monks. The English-language Peking Review said only two of the men executed in Lhasa were Tibetans, both convicted criminals.

54-year-old man admits killing boy

ST. JOSEPH, Missouri (R) — A man who confessed to the sex killing of a four-year-old boy may have knowledge of 15 other murders across the United States, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said. Charles Hatcher, 54, confessed on Thursday to the sexual assault and murder of Eric Christen of St. Joseph in 1978. His confession freed Melvin Lee Reynolds, who was serving a life term in jail after being wrongly convicted of the crime four years ago. "If there are other victims out there, there may be other (people like) Reynolds out there," an FBI investigator said.

Early pregnancy detection possible

SYDNEY (R) — A test to detect pregnancy within the first 24 hours of fertilisation could be commercially available within two years, Australian immunologist Hattie Morton says. Her team at the University of Queensland in Brisbane have discovered a hormone which is released by the mother in the first 24 hours after fertilisation, she said. They are now developing a kit to detect pregnancy within one day, while previously it could be ascertained only 10 to 12 days after fertilisation. The test kit could be on the market within two years, Dr. Morton said.

Filipinos reject Marcos' election plans

MANILA (R) — Philippine opposition leaders Sunday rejected an invitation to take part in preparations for next year's parliamentary elections and warned they would boycott polls if President Ferdinand Marcos stayed in power.

Former Sen. Jose Diokno told Reuters that an invitation by Mr. Marcos to his rivals to take part in a review of electoral rules was a trap.

Mr. Diokno, chief planner of the Justice for All Justice for Aqu-

ino (JAJA) movement, said the opposition would not take part in next year's national assembly polls if they simply legitimised what he called an "illegal" government.

Mr. Marcos should step down to ensure the elections were free and fair, he said.

Mr. Diokno said the Marcos proposal that his opponents nominate two members for the nine-member commission on electoral reform (Comelec) was unacceptable.

He said fair elections required election inspectors. Before martial law was imposed in 1972, a five-member inspectorate ran polls, with two members from each of the two main parties, and one neutral.

He said the opposition would not take part in a national assembly election under the present constitution. The president could legislate over the heads of assemblymen, whoever dominated parliament, he added.

Bangladeshi leader woos moderate former Members of Parliament

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh military ruler Lt. Gen. Hossain Mohammad Ershad has met a group of former Members of Parliament, tanning speculation among observers that he may soon announce the formation of his own political party.

Among people at the meeting in Gen. Ershad's official residence Saturday were members of the former ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the rightist Muslim League Party, who support an 18-point development programme endorsed earlier this year.

A section of the BNP headed by former Information Minister Shamsul Huda Chowdhury and former Home Minister Abdul Matin have also said they want a presidential election to be held before parliamentary polls, a procedure which Gen. Ershad advocates.

Political opponents have criticised Gen. Ershad for appointing himself head of councils set up to implement the 18-point programme and described the move

as a step by the military government to create its own political organisation.

The Awami League, the largest political party, last week restated opposition calls for Gen. Ershad and his deputies to resign their defence service posts before engaging in politics.

Gen. Ershad has said he does not rule out the possibility of entering politics, but he has guaranteed to put off his uniform first. He is due to retire from the army in Nov. 1984.

Political observers say he may call a presidential election between local council polls scheduled to be held by March 24, and parliamentary polls tentatively set for March, 1985.

But 22 political parties including the Awami League Saturday restated their intention to launch anti-government protests next month unless Gen. Ershad agrees to end martial law and hold parliamentary election next March.

Tension between the two sides

increased after Gen. Ershad accused politicians on Friday of inciting violence, seeking to disrupt stability and jeopardising the restoration of democracy.

The opposition parties have supporters among lawyers and students, who staged anti-martial law protests in February in which five students died and more than 100 people were injured.

The opposition's plans for protests are due to coincide with visits to Bangladesh in November by Britain's Queen Elizabeth and Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

Political sources said they thought Gen. Ershad might seek a compromise with opposition politicians over his election plans to avoid disruption of the visits and of an Islamic foreign minister's conference in Dhaka in December.

Gen. Ershad has said these occasions would enhance the prestige of Bangladesh as an independent nation and sees them as very important.

Thai troops to remain in S. Korea

BANGKOK (R) — Thai troops attached to the United Nations force in South Korea will be kept there to signify Bangkok's continuing friendship and cooperation with Seoul, according to Thailand's top military officer.

"It is only one unit but it demonstrates our support for South Korea while other nations' forces have been withdrawn," Gen. Arthit Kamlang-Ek said in an interview with the Bangkok Post published Sunday.

"I will maintain those troops there to signify our continuing friendship and cooperation from way back," he added.

Gen. Arthit is the army commander in chief in addition to being supreme commander of the Thai armed forces.

He also said that during a recent visit to the United States he asked for more and better armaments to be made available to Thailand under the U.S. foreign military sales programme.

Ku Klux Klan greets launch of 5th Trident

GROTON, Connecticut (R) — The U.S. Navy's fifth Trident nuclear submarine was launched Saturday as several hundred anti-war demonstrators expressed their opposition and 14 hooded members of the extreme right-wing Ku Klux Klan shouted support.

The USS Henry M. Jackson was named for the late Democratic senator from Washington state and christened by his daughter, Anne Marie.

The 185-metre long, 18,500-ton submarine was originally to be named Rhode Island but after Mr. Jackson, a major supporter of the Trident programme, died of a heart attack on Sept. 1, President Reagan renamed the vessel after him.

Sri Lanka to hold talks on separatist problems

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan President Junius Jayawardene has invited four opposition parties to discussions aimed at finding a solution to the island's ethnic tensions which erupted in bloody violence three months ago.

But the invitation to the meeting on Wednesday was not extended to the main party of the minority Tamil community, the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), a spokesman for the presidential secretariat said.

Mr. Jayawardene has said he will not negotiate with the TULF unless it abandons its campaign for a Tamil state. Party leader Appapillai Amirthalingam has refused to do so although he has expressed willingness to consider alternatives.

The front has denied any connection with Tamil separatist guerrillas in the northern district of Jaffna. But the government said on Wednesday that a letter found by the security forces, allegedly written by Mr. Amirthalingam's son, firmly established links between the party and the guerrillas.

Information Minister Anandaissa de Alwis told reporters the party leader, believed to be in New Delhi, would be questioned about these links when he returned to the island.

In August the government, with the support of some opposition parties, amended the constitution to ban separatist policies. The front boycotted the debate and has not returned to parliament since.

The main opposition group, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), has said it will send representatives to Wednesday's meeting.

SANTIAGO (R) — Despite the official scepticism of the Roman Catholic Church, a 17-year-old Chilean who says he holds regular conversations with the Virgin Mary has captured the imagination of thousands.

Newspapers have devoted pages to reports on the phenomenon of Miguel Angel Poblete, who went for a walk on a hill last June and returned saying he had seen and talked to the Virgin Mary.

It turned out that he had lied about his age, saying he was only 15, and people who had known him at orphanages and a rehabilitation centre told newspapers of epileptic attacks, compulsive lying and drug addiction — all denied by the boy.

But the stories did not discourage thousands of Chileans from travelling to the hillside outside the village of Villa Alemana, about 100 kilometres northwest of Santiago, to witness the apparitions.

On one occasion last week the crowd was reported to be a disappointing 20,000, but the scenes of fainting, hysteria and devout prayer around the shrine were repeated.

The low attendance, compared with earlier crowds of over 100,000, may have been due to a statement the previous night from

17-year-old Chilean, claiming sighting of Virgin Mary, gathers following

By Simon Alterman

the bishop of Valparaiso, Francisco de Borja, urging extreme caution over the case.

Commenting on the first reports by an official church investigating commission, he said: "For now I am inclined to a strongly critical attitude. As a result we forbid all priests to engage in any cult act in that place."

That was bad news for the small entrepreneurs who had begun to make a good living hawking everything from soft drinks to holy statues at Villa Alemana, where the mayor had the roads widened and a handy sign put up: To the Virgin.

The boy's protector, Priest Luis Fernandez, complied with the bishop's instructions to stay away on Friday, although he was waiting at the bottom of the hill for Poblete to come down from the shrine, neatly fenced with iron railings paid for by the faithful.

Teenage Virgin

In press interviews, Poblete has said that the Virgin has the face of a 19- or 21-year-old and a veil with 12 stars, which has led locals to christen the site the Hill of the 12 Stars.

He has said that the Virgin entrusted him with revelations similar to those said to have been made 66 years ago to three children at Fatima in Portugal, which are known only to the Pope. The Fatima apparitions have been officially rec-

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠872 ♠95 ♠A74 ♠AK1062
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠7 ♠KQ1065 ♠QJ98 ♠Q85
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠98642 ♠K7 ♠J763 ♠107
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQ83 ♠105 ♠9832 ♠AQ7
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KQJ83 ♠AQJ5 ♠J6 ♠94
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
?
What do you bid now?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQ6 ♠AJ9 ♠Q873 ♠J65
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
?
What action do you take?

Malaysia on alert for hijack attempt

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysian security staff have gone on alert at airports against possible hijacking attempt by an international group with members from Algeria, Italy and South Yemen, police said Sunday.

Malaysia's inspector-general of police, Tan Sri Haniff Omar told the national news agency Bernama that police received information from Interpol two weeks ago about the group, believed to number from six to nine people.

Bernama quoted him as saying the target for hijacking could be any airport or airfield in the country.

He said security had been stepped up at all airports but decline to elaborate.

A 180-strong anti-hijack commando squad had been deployed at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport at Subang and descriptions of the group members have been circulated to all security staff. Mr. Tan Sri Haniff told Bernama.

Handwritten signature: *حسن*